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HOMES & Gardens

Children's Choices

Cowbridge girl Lowri is Macmillan's 'Young Welsh Champion'

Lowri Parsons raising funds for Macmillan.

LOWRI PARSONS, a pupil in year-8 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School, had just had her ninth birthday in 2013 when her grandfather was diagnosed with lung cancer.

It was hard for her to understand what was happening but during his episodes of major surgery and chemotherapy, Lowri often heard her family talk about their Macmillan nurse.

When her nana joined the Pontyclun and District Macmillan fundraising group, Lowri wanted to become a member, but she was too young.

However, she persuaded her mother and her stepfather to join the group so that she could go along with them to fundraising events.

Lowri threw herself into fundraising – getting together a team for 'The Macmillan Mammoth Quiz'; dressing up as a witch for an Argos bucket collection; serving on the Macmillan stall at a local fete; and supporting the M&S September event.

She regularly helps her nana make the Macmillan token bags that are excellent little fundraising items.

At local events, she has become 'the legs of Muggy' and in the costume encouraged fundraisers at the 'Llantrisant Walk' organised by the Pontyclun and District Macmillan fundraising group last September.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

FLYERS' HELPING HAND!

ABOVE: The Pontyclun Flyers organised a ride just after Christmas for over 120 riders around the lanes of the Vale which generated a profit of over £2,200, which has been divided between the Taff Ely Foodbank and Pedalpower in Cardiff – See full story on page 6.

Business rates row – LATEST

COWBRIDGE businesses hit by huge projected rises in the business rates are hoping to find out later this week if a Welsh Government (WG) 'transitional relief' scheme will make a difference.

As has been discussed in The GEM previously, the latest revaluation of business rates, which takes place roughly every five years, has hit some local businesses really hard.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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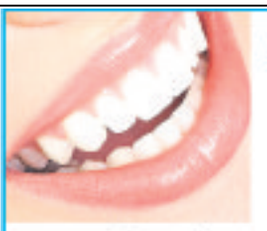

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Readers' Letters

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

Run-down 'Meals on Wheels' service

THE Vale Council has decided to contract out the meals on wheels service, with the Food Shed, Parc Prison, Bridgend being the current favourite to take over.

Currently, they do not offer pureed food which some elderly require, although I understand they are investigating the possibility for the future.

The council service extends further than the supply of meals. The current delivery staff are excellent and report any concerns they have of the elderly clients immediately. They are also very flexible when needs of the client changes with short notice. I have first hand experience of this.

The Vale budget for supplying this service for the year 2016/2017 was £13,334 (appears somewhat low) and the service cost £50,918 thus making a deficit – these are the Vale's own figures following a freedom of information request.

The service has been run down over the past number of years, particularly following cooking equipment problems at Southway, Cowbridge, and the meals on wheels qualification criteria having also been changed.

Consequently, the financial viability of the service is now in question due to the depleted demand, as the service is no longer offered to many parts of the rural Vale with a high percentage of elderly population.

At the same Vale Council meeting, the councillors voted to have computer tablets at a cost of £30,000.

School free breakfast clubs cost the Vale in the same financial year £462,527, although I do understand this was a Government policy; again the Vale's own figures following a FOI request.

Should we as a society be offering a breakfast club system at the expense of other critical requirements? Surely a parent's basic parental duty is to ensure their child has breakfast prior to leaving the house. Should they choose to do so, the Vale would have almost £500,000 pounds to spend on more critical social areas.

Stuart Robson, Rhoose.

ANTI-ABERTHAW GROUPS ARE MAKING 'FALSE CLAIMS'

AFTER a recent, peaceful protest at Aberthaw Power Station and subsequent press coverage on emissions and alleged health risks being linked to our site, I wanted to address these allegations head on.

This year will be a major transition in the station's history; we are investing £5 million in technology that will significantly lower NOx emissions.

However, in turn, this will signal the end of Welsh coal deliveries to site, which given our joint history is highly disappointing.

We will also reduce our generation levels, meaning that there will be job reductions across the site. This is all to ensure that we can produce power when needed, whilst complying with emissions standards.

It is very difficult for me and the staff at site to read reports of health-related illnesses and deaths, allegedly caused as a result of our operations; especially as we make Health, Safety and Environmental Performance our number one concern.

The claims being made by Friends of the Earth and Reclaim the Power are flawed and are based on inaccurate reporting of data.

The false claims are being used emotively to raise fear amongst the public and discredit the vital role Aberthaw Power Station plays in ensuring security of electricity supply for the UK.

The reality is very different – over a 14-year period of monitoring local air quality, both SO2 and NOx concentrations have been significantly below the relevant EC and UK Government Standards.

I would like to thank the local community for their continued support.

Richard Little
Aberthaw Power Station Manager

NHS problems start at the top

SINCE the UK spends less money as a percentage of the national wealth than most EU countries on health, it is reasonable to state that this Government is denying the NHS, and also the Social Care Services, adequate funds for ideological reasons.

For 30 years, NHS directors have been cutting bed numbers, telling the public this was efficient, while patients lay on trolleys – and ambulances, at £200,000 each, were used as stationary beds.

Year on year, directors wasted billions on agency staff at inflated rates, where most of the money went to the agency owners. They never learnt, over a quarter of a century, that such desperate staff shortages must derive from the incompetence of those who did the forward planning – themselves. Such top management demotivates good staff.

The NHS, based upon collective ethics, free of insurance haggling, is the most efficient organisation in the world. The explanation of the years of its struggle, goes far beyond a lack of money, to the basic beliefs of those chosen as directors, like the directors in British banks and elsewhere.

Such people are quite unsuited to understand collective ethics, the inspired dream of Clem Attlee.

And even now the public is incapable of seeing the difference.

N Westerman, Brynna.

'Resignation call was justified'

REGARDING the item on page 3, February 2: 'Sully-Cosmeston housing leaflet leads to call for resignation', how right of Coun Kevin Mahoney to call for Coun Burnett's resignation for misrepresentations over the council's proposal to build on the Cosmeston Upper Farm fields, right up to the coast.

Her planning officers dismissed objections on the roads being congested and incapable of taking more traffic, declaring 'no insurmountable infrastructure requirements' and that the Highways Department just requires measures to 'alleviate' the traffic problems.

Yet FoE (Friends of the Earth) disclosed what the Highways Department actually wrote was "nil detriment" to the traffic situation.

At the LDP inquiry presenting the Friends of the Earth case on January 24, I disclosed that the Highways report mentioned the serious traffic congestion at the Merrier Harrier and Barons Court junctions, and required the planners to 'identify the highway improvements required, that will result in nil detriment to the existing traffic situation' if they wanted to include the Cosmeston site in the LDP.

As Kevin Mahoney shows, bunging a huge housing estate at Cosmeston was Coun Burnett's choice, not the LDP Inspector's. But traffic objections should clinch the case against.

Coun Burnett and her planners know that traffic from a development of this size cannot be accommodated by the existing highway infrastructure, nor did they try to identify feasible highway improvements. Instead they changed the Highways Department wording of 'nil detriment' to the weasel word 'alleviate'.

So will Burnett take responsibility for this and resign?

Max Wallis, Penarth. (Planning coordinator, Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth.)

How many *actually* use T9 service?

AN item in The GEM on February 2 headed 'Wasteful T9 bus should be scrapped, says a ward candidate', again quotes the defensive attitude of the Welsh Government.

Again, no mention is made of the losses incurred by this service. What is the point of being 'one of the UK's fastest growing airports' if the deficit increases year on year?

The article states: '7,126 people used the service in December'. Looking at the timetable regarding the number of journeys per day, I calculate that this means that there were between three and four passengers per journey. Does this make economic sense? Also, accepting that some airport staff use the service, how many true passengers were there?

I do hope that The GEM provides the full picture to its readers.

Sybil Green, Wenvoe.

Parliament is to serve the people – not just Brexiteers

MAY I respond to Ade Pitman's letter in The GEM of February 9? I voted to stay, but now we are in this situation, I agree we need to move on pretty quickly.

Nevertheless, it has to be done properly and this is the reason for Gina Miller's action. Parliament is the body which must make the formal decision on our behalf – we elected them for that purpose.

Also, as Ade rightly pointed out, 17 million voted to leave, a slightly smaller number voted to stay. But there are a significant number of other people, perhaps another 17 million, who could have voted, but either chose not to, or couldn't even be bothered to turn out.

Parliament is not there just to obey the 17 million Brexiteers, it is there to serve the people and the nation, scrutinising and striving to achieve the best deal for our country. It is there for all, Brexiteers, Remainers, apathetics and children not yet able to vote.

As for Nigel Farage being on the negotiating team, that would really be a step towards disaster. Farage has on many occasions antagonised and insulted his felllow MEPs and been openly laughed at for his views and absurd comments.

We need people with credibility who can negotiate, he is most certainly not the man for the job.

John Lewis, Llantwit Major.

'WHY DO PEOPLE INFLICT CRUELTY ON ANIMALS?'

JUST what is it with some people? Why do they feel the need to inflict cruelty on animals?

The news I read about this leaves me reeling!

Fox hunting is banned by law and yet it still goes on, much to the dismay of many distressed locals and protesters alike.

The hunting fraternity will say the kill only delivers elderly or infirm foxes. I wonder if that is the ones the village postman has allowed people to take pot shots at on his land?

Didn't he do well as he bragged about the latest victim, a vixen, shot and killed leaving her cubs for dead too.

It makes no sense in our supposed civilised society of animal lovers that such antiquated bloodsports are still condoned.

It is sad these people spend their leisure time killing for fun.

I applaud all animal activists out there, including the very brave hunt protester as she was mocked for her actions on Boxing Day – and I deplore all those cruel people, including that postman for his!

T Abery, Barry.

If the T9 is so 'popular' then scrap the subsidy

I NOTE with some interest the Welsh Government's claim that the T9 service is going from "strength to strength".

Any growth in passenger numbers is welcome, but it's important to recognise that the best year on record for the T9 coincides with a record £455,000 subsidy by the taxpayer.

Neither do these statistics alter the fact that the bus is frequently empty, and that local bus services in the Vale have been decimated in recent years by Labour cuts.

We all want to see a thriving airport, but the sight of the empty T9 running along Port Road 34 times a day is extremely galling for local residents who don't have the luxury of a regular bus service.

However, in a spirit of objectivity and support, let's give the government the credit they deserve, because if the T9 is so successful then perhaps they can scrap the subsidies that keeps it running every year, and put that money back into local services.

Vincent Bailey
Dyfan Conservative candidate, Barry

GEM NOTE: The Welsh Government's recent comments on the T9 bus service are detailed on page 11.

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St John Cowbridge Division delighted with outstanding inspection

Tom Hibbs (left) receiving his sergeant certificate from Mike Flanagan, Cardiff and the Vale county commissioner.

THE St John Cymru Wales Cowbridge Division met for their annual divisional inspection recently, carried out by senior members of St John Cymru Wales.

The division meets at the United Free Church hall, Cowbridge, every Wednesday evening, and the inspection includes checks on all equipment, administration and finances, as well as a parade and inspection of the youth and adult members.

Cardiff and the Vale county commissioner, Mike Flanagan, reported that the division presented an outstanding inspection, and a great example to other divisions in the area.

Mr Flanagan presented awards to the cadet and badger sections, and was pleased to promote 17-year-old Tom Hibbs to sergeant.

Mr Flanagan said: "This promotion is a testament to Tom's hard work and dedication over the previous year, and we are confident that he will be an asset to the adult section once he turns 18. Tom is not only an asset to the division, but also to the community of Cowbridge, where he will continue to provide first aid cover."

For more information about St John Ambulance, email divisional officer in charge Kayleigh Duffin at kayleigh.duffin@cowbridge.sjaw.org.uk.

Déjà vu at Penllyn WI

THIS month's meeting of Penllyn and District WI was full of déjà vu for many of the members who had been teachers in their former lives!

Their speaker, Roger Williams, regaled them with sometimes humorous, and sometimes poignant stories of his time as a teacher of children with special needs.

Before he retired, Mr Williams taught boys and girls who had emotional and behavioural difficulties and he explained how this was both challenging and rewarding. The ladies enjoyed his tales and would certainly welcome him back to hear more!

They were asked to bring in items from their own school days and these brought back lots of memories and much laughter.

Next month, members are looking forward to hearing Sue Barrow talk about her 'Life as a Writer'.

Penllyn and District WI meets on the first Tuesday of each month at Penllyn Village Hall at 7.30pm and new members are always welcome.

JANE EXELL

Library services impress the WI

YSTRADOWEN WI's February meeting was attended by 32 members, including seven new ladies, who were warmly welcomed by president Jan Foyle.

The speaker was Melanie Weeks of the Vale Library Service, currently based in Barry.

Members were surprised to learn that there were five community libraries in Dinas Powys, Rhoose, St Athan, Sully, and Wenvoe.

They also learned that the holder of a library ticket could borrow up to10 items, ranging from books, talking books, to DVDs and CDs and an impressive range of free online services including e-books, e-audio books, and national magazines.

It was noted that Bont Faen WI branch had booked Cowbridge Town Hall for the Link meeting on Thursday, September 28, when Ystradowen and District WI celebrate 30 years of friendship and community service.

GB

BIG SCREEN

BIG SCREEN'S next film for 2017 is *Bridget Jones's Baby* (Cert 15) on Thursday, February 23 at 7.30pm in the Cowbridge Town Hall.

Bridget Jones (Renée Zellweger), now in her 40s, concentrates on a single life and her career but all is interrupted when she finds herself pregnant; there's one problem – who's the father?

Her mum (Gemma Jones) and her dad (Jim Boadbent) are very understanding, but can offer no solution to her predicament. Which of the boyfriends is the likely candidate? A delightful comedy – some say better than its predecessors.

Doors open 7.10pm; tickets £4 (available in advance from the Town Clerk's office, or on the door).

Young talent performs in Llantwit Major

THE second Llantwit Major music concert to celebrate local youth talent was held in St Illtud's Church on Saturday, February 4.

There were in total 12 acts watched by over 150 people. A big thank you goes to all who performed.

They were: Ben Tarlton – Cello; Llantwit Major Comprehensive School; Llanfair Primary School Choir; Lowri Morgan, Christier Boxall and Patrick Sheppard; Nia Paddison-Rees – Harp; Ysgol Y Ddraig Primary School Choir; Rhys Richards and Rhodri Richards; Liam Taylor; Jess Bowen and Leah Elliot; Chris Norton; Nat Peters and James Cousins; Gareth Jones and Caitlin Dolman

The evening was to raise funds for the Mayor's chosen charities, The Ed Evans Foundation and the Marie Cure Cancer Care. In total just over £1,000 was raised from tickets, refreshments and a raffle.

Everybody agreed it was an amazing evening with very talented musicians performing in a beautiful setting.

A big thank you must be given to Major Music, who provided all the backing equipment and sound tracks for the evening. Without their hard work and support this event could not happen.

Anyone interested in joining Major Music can contact them on 01446 724000.

Also thanks must be given to Alyson Jones for her organisational skills in bring all the acts together to perform.

Finally, thanks go to to Patrick Shepard, the compere, who kept the audience entertained during the musical interludes. A great night was enjoyed by all.

DH

Praise for Marie Curie volunteer

Vale AM Jane Hutt joined forces with Marie Curie Nurses by sponsoring an event in the Senedd on Tuesday, February 8, to launch the Great Daffodil Appeal. The appeal is Marie Curie's biggest annual fundraising campaign, and now in its 31st year. She congratulated Llantwit Major resident Geoff Mortimer at the event. He won the Marie Curie south east Wales Volunteer of the Year award.

Business rates row is rumbling on....

(Continued from page 1)

Cowbridge (together with towns such as Monmouth) has become the focus of a national protest, culminating with a petition that was handed into The Senedd in January.

In response, the WG has created a £10 million transitional relief scheme, operating over three years and cutting the immediate rates bill. However, what it will mean in terms of hard cash per business is still unclear.

In the Senedd this Tuesday, (February 14), the Leader of the Welsh Conservatives Andrew RT Davies urged First Minister Carwyn Jones to bring forward details of the scheme as soon as possible.

In response, Mr Jones confirmed it would be unveiled by the end of this week at the latest.

Another action being taken by local traders is to appeal their rates revaluation. Sally Stephenson of The Pencil Case, who is co-ordinating the protest campaign, told The GEM: "It is definitely worth doing, I have had my increase reduced by almost half. I know others have had reductions too."

To this end, traders met at The Bear Hotel earlier this week, at a meeting arranged by Vale MP Alun Cairns' office, where a representative of Cooke and Arkwright explained the appeals process. Sally Stephenson said that the possibility had also been raised of a joint rates revaluation appeal from a group of traders.

Andrew RT Davies queried the timing of the WG rates relief information, saying: "It is disappointing the announcement will be made on the eve of recess, since it will not give us the opportunity to question ministers on the proposals.

"It is vital we get the scheme right and proper scrutiny is the best way."

Vale MP Alun Cairns said the relief scheme fell short of "committing to an enhanced, permanent rate relief scheme".

Mr Cairns favours the system in England, where businesses with a rateable value below £12,000 will pay nothing in business rates from April onwards, with tapered relief for those businesses with a value up to £18,000.

The Welsh Government, however, says that the two countries are not comparable, and has argued that, for instance, there is a much higher proportion of small businesses with a rateable value of less than £12,000 in Wales than in England.

The magic of Hogwarts at Cowbridge Library!

A young wizard and witch cast a spell at Cowbridge Library...

COWBRIDGE Library hosted the third annual Harry Potter Book Night recently for a night of magic enjoyed by young book-lenders across the Vale.

More than 30 young wizards, witches and muggles were treated to an evening of readings, potion-making and fantastic beasts as the library opened its doors to inquisitive minds.

The night began with the students being allocated houses at the sorting ceremony, before going on to visit the 'owlery', where, instead of Hedwig, they met Bert the barn owl, and Ice the snowy owl.

The students of Gryffindor, Slytherin, Ravenclaw and Hufflepuff went on to learn more about these fantastically fascinating beasts from their owners, Wings of Wales.

Thankfully, the potion masters on the night were far more welcoming than Professor Snape, and the children enjoyed carefully brewing their potions before crafting bowtruckles.

The young students designed some creative fantastic beasts of their own, and rounded the evening off with a glass of butterbeer.

Coun Lis Burnett, deputy leader of the Vale Council, and cabinet member for regeneration and education, said: "Events like these are incredibly important, as they play such an big part in engaging young children and encouraging them to read more.

"The staff at Cowbridge Library have, yet again, done a fantastic job in entertaining their young visitors through literature."

Cowbridge Library also hosted their first Harry Potter Quiz Night in February, as part of the National Bloomsbury Harry Potter Quiz Night. More than 40 people met to compete, with the Witches of Colwinston eventually emerging as victors.

Flybe to Dusseldorf

FLYBE, Europe's largest regional airline, has announced the return of its weekly Saturday service between Cardiff and Düsseldorf, starting on April 1.

The one hour and 40-minute flight also offers Cardiff travellers 'seamless travel within Germany and beyond' through a codeshare agreement with airberlin, which provides connections for business and leisure travellers alike.

It is via airberlin's Düsseldorf hub to and from Scandinavia, Poland, Italy, France, Austria and Switzerland, as well as to cities around the world, such as Abu Dhabi and New York.

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL

Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynewydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Obituary of Mr Gwyn Llewellyn, aged 73

FORMER Llangan neighbours joined the family of the late Mr Gwyn Llewellyn at his funeral, which took place at the mid-Glamorgan Crematorium, Coychurch.

Gwyn had lived close to his parents at Ty Mawr Farm, Llangan for the greater part of his life and was known to the farming community.

Gwyn moved to the Bridgend area 11 years ago to be closer to his daughter Sonia and his son Shaun, but he never forgot his Llangan roots and was a constant visitor to his brother Rhys and sister-in-law Diane, who live at Ty Mawr Cottage, Llangan.

Our thoughts are with Sonia, Shaun, Rhys and David at this unhappy time; following the funeral those in attendance were invited to the Star Inn, Treoes for refreshments.

On returning to their car Diane and Rhys found their car had been vandalised, with windows broken.

If anyone in the area of the village hall witnessed this mindless act, please tell the family in Llangan.

Llangan School news

ON Friday, February 10 pupils took part in a tag rugby tournament at Peterston-super-Ely Primary School.

Reminder!

TICKETS are still available for the concert by the Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir which will take place in the Treoes village hall on Friday, February 17 at 7pm; pay at the door or call 01656 663693.

Saron Chapel, Treoes

A SERVICE will take place at Saron on Sunday, February 19 at 3pm.

The officiating cleric is Rev Trevor Harry and everyone will be assured of a warm welcome.

Creative writing competition at Old Hall showcases Cowbridge talent

THE winners of the Creative Writing Competition celebrated their success in style recently at Cowbridge Old Hall Community Centre.

Sally Perini, area development officer for community learning, opened the award ceremony which gave prize winners the opportunity to exchange ideas about their respective narratives and to discuss their entries with Colum Sanson-Regan, guest speaker and recently published author.

Yet again, the competition proved to be an unqualified success, drawing in more than 30 entries of an exceptionally high standard.

This year, the objective was to write the first chapter of an historical novel, with a word limit of 1,500 words.

The winner was Peter Sain ley Berry of Cowbridge, with 'Henric's Mill'; runner-up, Candida Niman of Cowbridge with 'At the darkest moment comes the light.' In third place was Gillian Drake from Swansea with 'Watermark'.

Highly commended was Sue Mays of Llantwit Major with 'The commonplace book of a young philosopher' and Matthew Elwell from Pontyclun with 'The road to heaven'.

Peter Sain ley Berry and Candida Niman read extracts from their entries.

Prizes and certificates were presented to the winners by Mayor, Coun Liz George.

A folder containing the winning entries will be available to read in Old Hall and will also be posted on the Vale web site.

Vivienne Charlton, competition coordinator.

TOP LEFT: Winner Peter Sain ley Berry reads his manuscript.

LEFT: Guest speaker, Colum Sanson-Regan, the Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethia, Coun Liz George, Sue Mays, (highly commended entry) and Vivienne Charlton (co-ordinator and judge).

BELOW: Runner-up Candida Niman, winner Peter Sain ley Berry with Mayor Liz George and consort, Chris George.

Council meeting

THE next meeting of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council will be held on Tuesday, February 21, at 7pm in the council chamber.

Among the items on the agenda will be setting the fees for hiring rooms in the town hall for the coming year.

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Interesting dam talk for U3A

ON February 8, Cowbridge U3A were entertained by Polly and Ken Davies, who gave a talk to members on the Hoover Dam.

Built between 1930 and 1935 near Las Vegas, (which incidentally does not use the water, but deep wells) the dam is bow-shaped so that it can withstand the pressure of water behind it.

Lake Mead pushes against the dam creating compressive forces that travel along the great curved wall. The canyon walls push back, counteracting these forces.

Hoover Dam is the first single structure to contain more masonry that the Great Pyramid at Giza. When the relief tunnels have been used, the water travels at 125mph, fortunately not often, although people nearby downstream have lost homes.

Needless to say, the work was dangerous. This was during the Depression, and when wages or the country averaged 50c an hour, the dam workers could expect 65c an hour.

At the next meeting, there will be a talk by John Winton entitled 'Have I Got Pews for You?' at Cowbridge town hall at 2pm on March 8; visitors welcome, small fee.

TB

Boxing legends in Cowbridge

THE Bear Hotel in Cowbridge will be hosting a 'Lunch of Champions' event on Friday, March 10.

Organised by WS Marketing, it aims to be the first in the series of lunch talks with inspiring and entertaining sports men and women from around the world.

The first guest speakers are Lee Selby, the (IBF) Featherweight Champion of the World, and Enzo Maccarinelli, the former (WBO) Cruiserweight Champion of the World.

The event is to be hosted by Nicky Piper (MBE) – the former Commonwealth Light Heavyweight Champion.

Organiser Wesley Skene said: "As well as an exciting afternoon of boxing stories and a delightful lunch at the Bear, we will also be holding an auction of boxing memorabilia."

Tickets are available online at www.lunchofchampions.co.uk.

Fellowship in Cowbridge

AN established Women's Fellowship Group in Cowbridge is welcoming new members and visitors.

The group meet in the church hall, Llanblethian, on the first Thursday of each month at 7.30pm.

A varied annual programme includes: Interesting guest speakers, visits, events, creative activities, demonstrations, lunches and, of course, tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes with everything.

For more information about the group, contact Hazel Coates (01443 226412) or Georgina Magnay (01446 774335).

Visit www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk for the latest stories and breaking news...

Drawing lessons at Llanblethian WI

THIS month, Heather Simmonds, local artist and teacher at Old Hall Cowbridge, introduced members to the magical world of drawing.

This was a hands-on lesson so she gave us some pointers as to how to approach the art of charcoal drawing – and then set us free.

After much talking and laughter an hour had passed and, lo and behold, we had 25 pictures of easily identifiable still life objects.

It was a fun evening and goes to prove you are never to old to try something new. Heather runs a portrait class at the Old Hall and would dearly love to have some new sitters, so if you have time to spare, (and would like to get paid for it!) contact Heather at the Old Hall; she would love to hear from you.

If you would like to join our institute we would love to see you, we meet the second Thursday of every month at Llanblethian Church Hall 7.30pm:

VG

HIGH PRAISE FOR 'CHALLENGE WALES'

Sir Alan Massey, CEO of MCA (left), presents the award to Vicky Williams and skipper Andy Hall from Challenge Wales.

***CHALLENGE WALES*, Wales' Tall Ship, has been awarded the 'UK Sail Training Vessel of the Year' by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA).**

The award is given to a vessel which has had an exceptional year and has fulfilled sail training, seamanship and safety requirements.

Challenge Wales provides personal and social development training for young people aged 12 to 25 to help them improve their employability skills.

Sir Alan Massey of the MCA said: "We chose *Challenge Wales* as this year's highly deserving winner as the vessel stood out for the determination and resourcefulness of everybody involved with her to make a real, safe and lasting difference to the lives of communities.

"We were particularly impressed by the story of one of her crew, an 18-year-old man, whose life was given renewed purpose as a result of just a short time with *Challenge Wales*.

"This was a wonderful example of what can be achieved by experiencing well-managed, caring and professional training out at sea under sail – something that is barely achievable in any other type of activity".

The skipper of *Challenge Wales*, Captain Andy Hall, said: "Sail training is a great leveller, putting everyone on the same platform regardless of who you are and your background."

Ford could capitalise on increase in demand for petrol engines

THE Welsh Government has received an assurance from Ford that the anticipated production volume of engines from its Bridgend plant remains healthy.

The Economy Secretary, Ken Skates was questioned on the issue at the National Assembly by South Wales West AM Suzy Davies.

Ms Davies said the Government's conditional investment for the plant is based on the number of jobs it can secure over five years.

Mr Skates emphasised there are key dates in the oncoming years and that a five-year plan is essential.

He said trade union leader Len McCluskey wanted more information on the five-year plan so it could be spread with the workforce, who were understandably concerned.

Mr Skates said that 2020 is also a key date and that the Government is seeking assurances from Ford.

He said: "We're willing to work with them and invest, if necessary, in opportunities to make sure that there is a long-term sustainable future for the plant.

"We have already worked with Ford Bridgend in investing more than £140 million at the site since 1978, and this has included support for skills.

"It has included support for capital investment, improvements to infrastructure and also environmental improvements.

"We will do what we can to make sure that the plant has a strong and viable future and capitalises on the incredible productivity levels that we've seen in recent times.

"We're keen to ensure that the competitiveness of the plant matches that of its European counterparts.

"We will be nimble in our approach in terms of what support may be required were Ford to come to us with a request for support, particularly to take advantage of new and emerging technologies.

"We offer a range of support mechanisms to assist businesses large and small to take advantage of new technology, and I'm sure that this is something that Ford would be very keen to explore with us."

Mr Skates said that in terms of stimulating demand for petrol engines, the relative decline in demand for the diesel engine following the Volkswagen scandal has given rise to an increasing demand for petrol engines.

He said: "Ford have reiterated that the anticipated production volume of engines from Bridgend remains healthy in the upcoming years.

"I think we should take confidence from that, with associated labour requirements expected to be similar to today's levels."

Good neighbours get a welcome at Woody's

A warm welcome was given by Noel Godfrey and other veterans at Woody's Lodge – based at HMS Cambria in Barry Docks – to Age Connects Good Neighbours co-ordinators last week.

The impressive Woody's Lodge provides a happy and supportive environment for veterans and former emergency service personnel.

The Age Connects ladies said: "This is exactly what so many older people need. Somewhere to meet others who understand you, because they also had the same experiences."

Age Connects welcomes Woody's addition to the opportunities for socialising in the Vale and will certainly support older people to find out more via the Senior Health Shop, Barry, or the Age Connects office in Llantwit Major.

A musical evening at St Nicholas WI

ANN BRYANT welcomed members to a musical evening at St Nicholas WI with talented harpist, Llywelyn Ifan Jones, a multi-award winning musician chosen for the late Yehudi Menuhin's 'Live Music Now' scheme.

It brings music to the community, while promoting the careers of the musicians taking part, and it has taken Llywelyn to many overseas venues, including Austria and Germany.

He introduced the group to the workings of the harp, followed by a selection of music including Handel and Faure, which was enjoyed by all.

The minutes of the January meeting were read and it was noted that the group now has 28 members, having welcomed a new member recently.

A newsletter from Federation House was read and as a result, five members wished to attend the annual council meeting in Port Talbot.

St Nicholas WI will return to their original start time of 7pm; the next meeting will take place on March 2 at St Nicholas Church Hall. **WL**

Gold for Ben!

BEN Moore in year-7 at Cowbridge Comprehensive School has had another busy weekend of Judo.

In the first ranking event of the year, and his first competition since being selected for the Welsh Squad, he won gold at the British Judo Association (BJA) Midland Open last weekend.

To add to his success he was also awarded his British Judo Council (BJC) squad international badge following on from his success over in Holland. Well done Ben!

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Pontyclun Flyers in double charity boost

Pedalpower is a charity that encourages and enables children and adults of all ages and abilities to experience the benefits of cycling by offering a range of services.

TWO local charities recently benefited from donations from local cycling club The Pontyclun Flyers.

The Flyers organised a 'Festive 40' 40-mile sportive ride just after Christmas for over 120 riders around the lanes of the Vale which generated a profit of over £2,200, which has been divided between the Taff Ely Foodbank and Pedalpower in Cardiff.

Taff Ely Foodbank, previously known as Pontyclun Foodbank, was started by Bethel Baptist Church, Pontyclun in October 2009. As other centres were opened locally in Church Village, Gilfach Goch, Llanharan and Thomastown, the foodbank was renamed Taff Ely Foodbank.

The foodbank is a project founded by local churches and community groups, working together towards preventing hunger in the area. The foodbank provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to them in crisis. The foodbank is part of a nationwide network of foodbanks, supported by the Trussell Trust, working to combat poverty and hunger across the UK.

Based in Pontcanna in Cardiff, Pedalpower is a charity that encourages and enables children and adults of all ages and abilities to experience the benefits of cycling by offering a range of services. They provide bike hire, both conventional machines and adaptable bikes, to enable people with any ability or disability to enjoy cycling on two, three or more wheels.

Any local cyclists are welcome to join the Flyers and there is more information on the club website and Facebook.

PG

'Developers' wishes more important than residents' wishes'

UNTIL recently, I believed that the council had a philosophy of working collaboratively with local communities (including community councils) in order to drive improvement and efficiency and thus better services for local residents.

I am now seriously disillusioned with the council for the following reasons:

1. The decision by the council to approve 120 houses being built in Bonvilston before the latest consultation period was finished. It should be noted that there has been a significant number of objections to this development over the last couple of weeks due to the lack of local infrastructure and the significant negative impact this will have on the already overburdened A48 and Pendoylan Lane, and doubling the size of the current village.

2. The proposed development was classed as 'not affordable' under planning definitions which has resulted in the council reducing its Section 106 obligations significantly (i.e in relation to financial commitments to the local community, education and transport).

This amounts to a reduction of almost £950,000. The council has been inconsistent in its approach to affordability and Section 106 obligations because the recently approved developments at Wenvoe HTV and St Nicholas were all approved without any reduction in Section 106 obligations.

Hence it does appear that the council has put the wishes of the developers/land owners to make significant profits ahead of the needs of the local community in relation to this development.

Can the council do the decent thing and reconsider this development (despite planning being given) to reflect the best interests of those people who currently live in the locality, and also those who could potentially be moving into these new properties?

Name and address supplied.

Southerndown WI latest news

NEARLY 30 members braved the bitterly cold weather to attend the February meeting of Southerndown WI.

Michele, our president, had returned from her winter visit to southern California and she updated us on the forthcoming events.

Highlights will be the annual council meeting in May when the afternoon speaker is Britain's first astronaut, Helen Sharman; and the garden party being held in Margam Park during June. We were also updated on our newly formed craft group.

Our speakers for the evening were two students from Atlantic College. Eva and Han gave a fascinating talk about the festival we call Chinese New Year but is called 'Spring Festival' in China.

As it is based on the lunar calendar it is a moveable feast, taking place over the two weeks between a new moon and a full moon that occurs in January and/or February. Each year is represented by an animal, within a 12 year cycle.

We have just moved into the year of the Rooster, having left the year of the Monkey (and its associated 'monkey business'!) behind us. It is a huge festival in China when gifts, usually of money, are given in red envelopes – red being a particularly lucky colour in Chinese culture.

Eva and Han answered many questions put to them by the group and, since Eva and Han are from different parts of China, we learnt how the traditions vary from place to place.

The questions and discussions carried on while tea and coffee were served. Thanks to Eva and Han for giving their time and presenting a really interesting evening.

The coffee morning this month will be on Thursday, February 23 at 10.30am at Michele's home in Ogmore by Sea. Copies of the newsletter will be available for collection. Members are reminded that subscriptions are due this month – contact Michele or Jenny to find out how to pay.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, March 9 at 7.15pm in the church hall, Southerndown Road in St Brides Major. We look forward to seeing you then.

PM

Ty Hafan gears up for Saturday, May 13...

'Rainbow Run' helps youngsters like Scarlett

BARRY ISLAND'S most colourful fun run is back this summer, raising money for life-limited children across Wales.

Following the success of last year's first Rainbow Run in the town, the paint-splattering challenge event returns to Barry Island on May 13.

Raising money for life-limited children and young people and their families at Tŷ Hafan children's hospice in Sully, the Rainbow Run is a 5km colour run (or walk) in which, along the route, participants get showered with different colours of powder paint.

The event raises money for children like Scarlett Thomas, who was born with a condition so rare it doesn't even have a name and needs 24/7 care from parents Chris and Clair.

Mum Clair said: "Scarlett is now three years old. She is a wicked, cheeky and funny little girl.

She enjoys it at Tŷ Hafan and gets so much out of it. At Tŷ Hafan, they focus on making a short life a full life. Now, we know this really is true.

"Thanks to the Tŷ Hafan play team, we're learning how to play with Scarlett, focusing on her strengths instead of what she can't do – helping her development and improving her quality of life.

"As long as Scarlett is happy and smiling we can cope with anything. Going to Tŷ Hafan is the only time we get to be a family. In more ways than I can explain, Tŷ Hafan means we're no longer alone."

Mair Kinsey, marketing and events officer at Tŷ Hafan, said: "People who take part in our Rainbow Run events are helping families make the most of the precious time they have left together, as their valued sponsorship allows us to continue offering care and support across Wales."

For more information, or to sign up for the Rainbow Run, please visit www.tyhafan.org/rainbow-run.

ABOVE: When the people of Barry and the Vale take part in the Island's Rainbow Run, they are helping youngsters like Scarlett Thomas who has a condition so rare it doesn't have a name. Scarlett is shown with her doting Mum and Dad Clair and Chris.

A 'sensory haven' in Barry – thanks to Dow's £10,000 gift

'ACTION for Children', which provides respite care and support for children and young people with learning or physical disabilities, has refurbished the sensory room at its Ty Robin base in Barry, thanks to a donation of over £10,000 from Dow Corning.

The revamped room was officially opened on January 16 and provides a safe haven for children with special needs who struggle with everyday situations.

It also supports other children with complex needs by stimulating their senses via equipment such as fibre optic lights, bubble tubes, projected moving images and a range of similar toys.

Lowri is young Welsh champion

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When Lowri was in her first year at Cowbridge Comprehensive, the sixth formers organised a 'Big Coffee Morning' for Macmillan and she took inspiration from that.

Being a junior pupil she wasn't able to participate, so she decided to host her own coffee morning at home.

The family had just moved to a new address and didn't know their neighbours but undeterred, Lowri wrote invitations and hand posted them through letterboxes. Everyone enjoyed the event including several neighbours, and those who couldn't attend made donations.

Lowri made £450 for Macmillan Cancer Support and plans to make her home coffee morning a regular event.

Her enthusiasm, energy and effort was noticed by Macmillan fundraising managers and in October last year, she was nominated for an award.

She is old enough now to know that for people like her grandad to get the care they need a special kind of help is required and raising money for Macmillan is her way of helping to make that happen.

Lowri's grandfather was delighted when he was told that Lowri had been nominated for an award with Macmillan.

Sadly he lost his battle with cancer in January. He would have been enormously proud to learn that she is now the Young Macmillan Champion in Wales.

MESSY CHURCH

ON Sunday, February 19 at 2.30pm Messy Church will take place in the Reading Room, Bonvilston (opposite village shop) and thereafter every third Sunday in the month.

St Mary's Church and Zoar, Bonvilston warmly invite toddlers (with their parents) youngsters and teenagers to this new venture. Games, crafts, Bible story, refreshments, fun activities for all the family; plenty of parking!

Further information from Rev Lee Dutfield on 07884 869020 or Rev Martyn Davies on 01446 760498 or Ann Roach on 01446 781309.

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WOODY'S LODGE OPENS ITS DOORS FOR VETERANS

Woody's Lodge, a centre for providing veterans of both Armed and emergency services with access to charities, advice, counselling and a place to socialise with other veterans has opened its doors to the public.

The lodge is currently based on the grounds of HMS *Cambria* in Sully. It has a ground breaking and visionary ethos developed and brought to fruition by a group of local residents. It is led by Dr David Trotman who spearheaded the successful Penarth Pier Pavilion transformation.

Attendees from all over South Wales are welcome to visit with no commitment via referral or direct contact through the website *www.woodyslodge.co.uk*.

It's motto is *'Giving Space and Time'* and the idea is simple – a place under one roof, where veterans of any age or background from the Vale or Cardiff can meet and connect with the help they require, be it social, mental or practical.

Woody's Lodge commemorates Penarth born and bred Marine and Special Boat Service member, Paul 'Woody' Woodland who lost his life in 2012 on a training exercise prior to returning to Afghanistan.

His fiancée, Sian has campaigned tirelessly in his memory since he died, and has raised thousands of pounds for related charities.

She has been a driving force behind Woody's Lodge, alongside Russ Kitely, a RAF veteran, who has had this project as a vision for 12 years. The last 18 months has been a whirlwind of extremely hard work, enthusiasm and dedication encompassing countless volunteer hours from the seven members of the Woody's Lodge Board.

Chairman of Woody's Lodge and Army veteran of 26 years, Noel Godfrey has said: "Without the hard work of a dedicated band of veterans, civilians and men and women of all ages, along with encouragement from our supporters, we could not have realised this dream.

"After 12 years in the making, we can now provide a special, unique, quiet and safe space for veterans to meet with support agencies and have the opportunity to socialise at the same time."

The project would not have been possible without the support of the staff of the Royal Navy at HMS *Cambria* and generosity of local businesses.

A presentation was held at the Senedd in Cardiff Bay on January 23 with speeches given in support of and explaining the purpose of the lodge by Jane Hutt AM, Carl Sargeant AM and Dr David Trotman.

Woody's Lodge is expected to attain charity status soon. https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Woodyslodge

How Spicketts became a key Barry institution

GRATEFUL thanks go to local historian Laurie Owens for writing in The GEM of January 26 the article headed '*Undertaking a new profession in old Barry*'.

Laurie referred to the undertakers W Spickett and Son, which was established in 1837. Some additional information may be of interest to GEM readers.

Queen Victoria had just ascended to the throne to begin her 64-year 'glorious reign' when Spickett's started in business at Wesley House, Cadoxton, as jobbing carpenters, wheelwrights and undertakers.

The founders were David Spickett and William Spickett.

The thriving business was moved to a new address at 5 Barry Road, Cadoxton, before settling down at the Court Road premises, which were purpose-built for the undertaking business with a workshop at the rear. That was in 1899.

Over the years, the firm was actively involved in local affairs with both the founder and his son acting as clerks to the parish of Merthyr Dyfan, during the period when Barry grew from three scattered hamlets to a fairly large town, and while the docks were also being built.

Spicketts, in fact, played their part in the building of Barry Docks, carrying out a large amount of contract work in their role of jobbing carpenters.

Spicketts also provided all the surveyors' wooden pegs used for marking out the docks, but at that time the main business of the firm was still funeral work.

Life, of course, was far from easy in those days and wage packets were certainly none too fat. Many families simply couldn't afford the cost of a hearse and carriages, and the navvies building the docks had a tradition of carrying the coffin in procession through the streets.

At that time, the horse drawn 'Shellabier' and horse drawn carriages made light work of ploughing through the ankle deep winter mud of Barry's unpaved streets, but it was far more gruelling for the funeral bearers and mourners who made the slow journey on foot.

When William Spickett died in 1932, Frederick William Kenneth Hiley Spickett (known as Ken) took over the firm. Ken was married to Doris and they had six children; David, Alison, Pat, Beryl, John and Maryrose. Sadly, John died aged two, and Pat many years later, aged 47.

Ken Spickett died in 1970. David Spickett, the fourth generation, took over the running of W Spickett and Son.

In 1987, when W Spickett and Son had been in business for 150 years, David's son Andrew joined him and they both ran the business until 2000, when David retired due to ill health.

W Spickett and Sons was bought by Pigeons of Cardiff, and is now known as Vale Funeral Services, run by Lyndsay and Nicola Ellis.

JS

CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Deddf Cynllunio a Phrynu Gorfodol 2004

Rheoliadau Asesu Amgylcheddol Cynlluniau a Rhaglenni (Cymru) 2004

Rheoliadau Cynllunio Gwlad a Thref (Cynllun Datblygu Lleol) (Cymru) 2005

Hysbysiad o Newidiadau Materion yn Codi Pellach i'r Cynllun Datblygu Lleol

Cynllun Datblygu Lleol Bro Morgannwg 2011 - 2026

Mae'n ofynnol i Gyngor Bro Morgannwg baratoi Cynllun Datblygu Lleol (Call) yn unol â Deddf Cynllunio a Phrynu Gorfodol 2004. Bydd y CDLl hwn, ar ôl cael ei fabwysiadu, yn disodli'r Cynllun Datblygu Unedol presennol a bydd yn sail i benderfyniadau ar gynllunio defnydd tir ym Mro Morgannwg. Mae CDLl Bro Morgannwg yn destun Archwiliad ar hyn o bryd ac mae'r Cyngor yn ymgynghori ar nifer o newidiadau arfaethedig sydd wedi dod i'r amlwg o ganlyniad i faterion yn codi yn ystod gwrandawiadau ychwanegol yr Archwiliad. Bydd y cyfnod ymgynghori yn para o **Ddydd Gwener 17 Chwefror tan hanner nos Ddydd Gwener 31 Mawrth 2017.**

Mae'r newidiadau arfaethedig yn ymwneud ag elfennau o ddatganiad ysgrifenedig y CDLl a'r map argymhellion ac wedi eu nodi yn yr Atodlen Newidiadau Materion yn Codi Pellach (NMCP)(2017). Gellir gweld copïau o'r Atodlen NMCP, ynghyd â dogfennau'r Arfarniad Cynaliadwyedd NMCP (AS) (yn cynnwys yr Asesiad Amgylcheddol Strategol) ac Asesiad Rheoliadau Cynefinoedd (ARhC) NMCP ar wefan y Cyngor - www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp Mae copïau caled hefyd ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu harchwilio yn ystod oriau agor arferol yn y lleoliadau canlynol:

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- **Pob llyfrgell ym Mro Morgannwg**

Dylid anfon sylwadau ynghylch yr Atodlen NMCP, NMCP AS a NMCP ARhC yn ysgrifenedig at (yn ddelfrydol ar ffurflen cyflwyno sylwadau) **y Tîm CDLl, Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, y Barri, CF63 4RT.** Mae'r ffurflen i gyflwyno sylwadau i'w chael o'r lleoliadau uchod neu ar-lein www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Gellir anfon ffurflenni sylwadau wedi eu cwblhau un ai at y Tîm CDLl yn y cyfeiriad uchod neu drwy e-bost i ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Ar y pwynt hwn dim ond sylwadau yn ymwneud â'r Newidiadau i Faterion yn Codi Pellach y dylid eu gwneud. Nid yw'r ymgynghoriad yn gyfle i ychwanegu at sylwadau blaenorol nac i gyflwyno sylwadau newydd ar rannau o'r Cynllun nad ydynt yn wynebu newid. Caiff unrhyw sylwadau o'r math hwnnw eu diystyru oherwydd y dylid fod wedi eu gwneud yn ystod cyfnodau cynharach o baratoi'r Cynllun. Caiff sylwadau priodol eu hystyried gan yr Arolygydd a benodwyd i archwilio cadernid y cynllun. Nodwch y bydd yr holl ymatebion a wneir yn briodol ar gael i'r cyhoedd eu gweld ac ni ellir eu trin yn gyfrinachol.

Ar gyfer unrhyw ymholiadau yn ymwneud â'r Archwiliad, cysylltwch â'r Swyddog Rhaglen Sarah Knevett ar 01446 704610 neu e-bostiwch programmeofficer@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Gellir cael mwy o wybodaeth ar yr ymgynghoriad Newidiadau Materion yn Codi Pellach ar wefan y Cyngor www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp neu drwy gysylltu â'r tîm CDLl drwy e-bost: ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk neu drwy ffonio: 01446 704663.

The Vale of Glamorgan Council

Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004

The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes (Wales) Regulations 2004

The Town and Country Planning (Local Development Plan) (Wales) Regulations 2005

Notice of Further Matters Arising Changes to the Local Development Plan

Vale of Glamorgan Local Development Plan 2011 - 2026

The Vale of Glamorgan Council under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 is required to prepare a Local Development Plan (LDP). The LDP will, upon adoption replace the current Unitary Development Plan and form the basis for decisions on land use planning in the Vale of Glamorgan. The Vale of Glamorgan LDP is currently undergoing Examination and the Council is consulting on a number of proposed changes that have emerged as a result of matters arising during the additional hearing sessions of the Examination. The consultation period will run from **Friday 17th February to midnight on Friday 31st March 2017.**

The proposed changes relate to elements of the LDP written statement and the proposals map and are set out in the Further Matters Arising Changes (FMAC) Schedule (2017). Copies of the FMAC Schedule, together with the FMAC Sustainability Appraisal (SA) (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) and FMAC Habitats Regulation Assessment (HRA) documents can be viewed on the Council's website at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Paper copies are also available for public inspection during normal opening hours at the following locations:

- **Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU**
- **Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT**
- **Vale of Glamorgan Council, Alps Depot, Quarry Road, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA**
- **All Vale of Glamorgan Libraries.**

Representations in respect of the FMAC Schedule, FMAC SA and FMAC HRA should be sent in writing (preferably on the representation form) to the **LDP Team, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry, CF63 4RT.** The form for making representations is available at the above locations or online at www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp. Completed representation forms may either be sent to the LDP Team at the above address or emailed to ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

Representations (including support and objections) at this stage must only relate to the Further Matters Arising Changes. The consultation is not an opportunity to add to previous representations or to make new representations on parts of the Plan that are not subject to change. Any such representations will be disregarded as they should have been made during the earlier stages of Plan preparation. All duly made representations will be considered by the Inspector appointed to examine the soundness of the Plan. Please note that all duly made responses will be made available for public inspection and cannot be treated as confidential.

For queries regarding the Examination, please contact the Programme Officer Sarah Knevett on 01446 704610 or email programmeofficer@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk

Further information on the Further Matters Arising Changes consultation is available on the Council's website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/ldp or by contacting the LDP team by email: ldp@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or phone: 01446 704663.

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

Female sculptors left out... but not by the Glamorgan GEM

I WAS pleased to see a column about the current Sculpture Cymru show at Dyffryn Gardens in last week's GEM.

But on reading further, found that although 10 sculptors are taking part, only three men were mentioned.

I quite understand that not all the works can be described in a short piece, but would like to point out that six of the 10 are women. It is always hard to promote the work of women artists – even the Tate is having to reconsider its hanging policy to be more equal – but when four of the women are from the Vale and Cardiff, i.e. local sculptors, it seems remiss when our own local paper leaves them out! The work will be in the gardens until September – I hope many local people will go along to see it.

Gwyneth Price (Sculpture Cymru), Llantwit Major.

Editor's note: The GEM was given the names of only three sculptors – Lee Odishow, Glenn Morris and John Harris – and a brief description of their work by the Marketing and Communications department of Dyffryn Gardens.

Needled by Christmas tree recycling scheme

I WISH to bring to your attention to the fact that the Vale of Glamorgan's Christmas tree recycling scheme was not as successful as indicated in the local press.

As advised by the council, I put my tree out the night before, ready for collection, only to find on my return home from work that the tree was still outside my house.

I rang the Vale helpline, to be told that they didn't collect my tree as the lorry was full, due to the number they had already collected.

I was told it would be picked up as soon as possible, or at the next recycling collection.

Yet again, the tree was still outside my house a week later, so I rang the Vale helpline again – where this time I was given a reference number with regard to my complaint, and told the tree would be collected no later than January 31.

At the time of writing to you, the tree is still outside my house. I would take it myself to the recycling centre but my car is not big enough.

Rachel Richardson, Barry.

Solicitors waive Will fee so people can donate to Ty Hafan

Ty Hafan provides a loving and supportive environment for children who need it most.

A CHILDREN'S hospice has teamed up with solicitors across south Wales to offer a free Will-writing service.

Throughout March, Tŷ Hafan's Write a Will campaign will see local solicitors waive their standard fee for helping prepare a Will for clients, in return for a small donation to the charity.

Kath Jones, legacy and individual giving fundraiser at Tŷ Hafan, said: "A Will is the only way to ensure your wishes will be honoured as you intend and protects your loved ones from the added stress of resolving financial and legal issues.

"One-fifth of the services provided to families are funded thanks to gifts in Wills.

"By taking part in our 'Write a Will' campaign, you'll not only be securing your wishes, but also be securing the future of life-limited children in Wales."

The Will-writing service will be provided by your chosen solicitor for a suggested donation of £50 for a simple Will or £75 for 'Mirror Wills'.

There will also be an option of leaving a gift to Tŷ Hafan in your will, to help the charity continue providing care and support to families who need it.

For more information about the Write a Will campaign, visit www.tyhafan.org/writeawill or call 02920 532 255.

Mayor's cookbook wants recipes!

THE Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan is publishing a charity fundraising cookbook on March 1, and wants local people to contribute a recipe.

"I have decided (due to popular demand), to donate my own award-winning Welsh cake recipe – until now a closely guarded secret!" says Coun Stuart Egan.

Each year, the Mayor of the Vale undertakes fundraising for his/her chosen charity. This year is no exception, and Coun Egan has been raising funds for the Llandough Hospital Orchard charity project and the Penarth and District Lesotho Trust.

The Llandough project is the first of its kind in Wales; 17 acres of land at the rear of Llandough Hospital will be converted into a community orchard and garden.

The Mayor explained: "The project will be mapped by a team of educationalists and wildlife experts, spearheaded by wildlife presenter Dr Rhys Jones from Cardiff University. So far, donations have helped to purchase trees, seeds, seats, tools, and sheds. The project will make a huge difference to staff, patients and visitors of all ages and abilities.

"PADLT (as it is affectionately known), organises and supports visits from Wales to Lesotho. The kingdom of Lesotho is about the same size as Wales, is over 1,000 metres above sea level and is entirely landlocked, being surrounded by South Africa.

"In the past 10 years PADLT have supported grants for health and schooling and all ages of the group have visited regularly to undertake work themselves. All concerned have described PADLT as life changing".

Please reply with your recipe (by February 14) to: the Mayor's Office at the Town Hall, King Square, Barry, CF63 4RW, or by email to: jmebrown@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk .

You will need to include your name (and if possible, a personal story about the dish and why it is so great!). Your recipe can be for a starter, main course, pudding, cake, biscuits, jam or pickle.

ValePlus minibus unveiled by AM

Jane Hutt AM with ValePlus service users, staff and trustees.

VALEPLUS has been fundraising since January 2015 to raise money for its new mini bus.

The organisation provide users with access to community facilities such as the college, library and parks; and during the weekend access to leisure activities, and access to transport is vital for this service.

Jane Hutt AM visited ValePlus to take part in their unveiling ceremony.

She said: "I was delighted to take part in the ceremony and congratulate all of the hard work the fundraisers have done in order to raise money for the new bus. ValePlus is such a valued service in our community and it is wonderful that they will be able to continue their work."

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T9 bus service is 'on the up', according to Welsh Government

THE much-criticised T9 bus service to Cardiff Airport is on the up – driven by higher passenger numbers – says a new report.

The T9 bus service linking Cardiff with Cardiff Airport has experienced its best year on record, figures* released by Welsh Government have shown.

Quarterly figures up to September 2016 show an average of over 13,200 passengers a month used the service in the last year, with month on month growth every month since June 2014.

The Welsh Government Economy Secretary Ken Skates said: "Cardiff Airport is one of the fastest growing airports in the UK and continues to go from strength to strength.

"I've been clear that a reliable, frequent bus service linking the airport to Cardiff and beyond is key if the airport is to reach its full potential, and it's encouraging to see that popularity of the T9 service has risen alongside the growth of the airport.

"The airport continues to work hard to increase destinations, routes and possibilities on offer and I look forward to the T9 continuing to form part of this offering and building on these positive passenger trends."

Debra Barber, CEO at Cardiff Airport added: "An express bus service is vital for a capital city airport and we are hugely encouraged by the growth of the T9, and are keen for opportunities to link the airport to west Wales to be explored.

"As an airport we have huge ambitions for growth and improved surface access, including bus, road and rail links, is critical in helping us achieve this."

** The figures are taken from an automatic passenger count used on Traws Cymru buses*

Dyffryn cleaning company lands biggest deal in its 30-year history

DYFFRYN-based Abbey Cleaning Service has secured the largest deal in its 30-year history, creating 10 new jobs in the Vale.

The commercial cleaning company has agreed a three-year deal with one of Wales' largest skills and employment providers, Penarth-based Itec.

The six-figure contract to support the training company's seven offices across south Wales is set to increase Abbey's turnover by 20 per cent.

Director of Abbey Cleaning, Adrian Harvie, said he was delighted to be working with another Welsh company to create more opportunities for local workers.

"This new contract is the result of a lot of hard work from the management team and our staff. There is a strong family environment at Abbey, and I am thrilled to be welcoming 10 new additions to the team.

"Hopefully, this is just the start, as we look to bid for more contracts and increase our network across Wales.

"We have had a recruitment drive over the past few weeks and we are now welcoming our new team members as the contract begins in early February."

Jonathan Gray, Itec's business support manager, said he was impressed by Abbey Cleaning's dedication to detail and enthusiasm for creating local job opportunities: "Supporting Welsh businesses and employees is one of our guiding principles here at Itec.

"We were impressed with the passion that Adrian and his team showed, and we know our offices will be safe in their hands."

Established 30 years ago, Abbey Cleaning is a family-run business working across Cardiff and South Wales. The company employs 31 people and supports a range of different businesses, from a solicitor's practice, through to national service centres.

Adrian Harvie (left) of Abbey Cleaning with Jonathan Gray of Itec.

www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

LOCAL PROJECTS HIT LOTTERY JACKPOT

NEW figures show that more than £1.1 million of National Lottery funding was awarded across Bridgend and the Vale last year.

A total of 158 grants were handed out to a wide variety of local projects, including:

£4,816 to Bridgend's Hospital Radio to buy a new broadcasting system, fund a radio licence and broadcasting equipment to improve the quality of broadcasting for patients and staff at Princess of Wales Hospital.

• £1,310 went to Barry Rugby Football Club minis and juniors to attract and develop new young rugby players, and to continue to improve current club members.

• £5,000 helped Wenvoe village hall replace the kitchen and improve facilities.

National Lottery Awards winners receive a £3,000 cash prize and national recognition at a ceremony broadcast on BBC One later in the year.

To nominate your favourite project in this year's National Lottery Awards, tweet @LottoGoodCauses with your suggestions or call 0207 293 3329 to find out more and to enter. Entries must be received by midnight on April 7.

SSAFA appeals for volunteers

SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity, has been providing support for our troops, veterans and their families for 131 years; annually, it now supports over 60,000 people.

We provide the 'frontline' across the military charity sector through our network of motivated and resourceful volunteers who go and visit those who may require help and who address their needs.

To continue this essential work SSAFA is in real need of more volunteers in your local area.

Our volunteers deliver vital assistance in all sorts of ways – starting by visiting individuals in their homes, assessing their needs and building a bespoke package of support.

We can help with issues such as mobility, home repairs, house adaptations, household goods, homelessness, marriage breakdown, mental health problems, urgent debt support, essential food and groceries needs, clothing and to cover the training costs to help younger veterans back into work.

Volunteering for SSAFA is a most rewarding role. If you are able to help, please contact us at www.ssafa.org.uk/newrecruits or call 0800 032 5612. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lieutenant General (retired) Sir Andrew Gregory KBE CB, Chief Executive, SSAFA, the Armed Forces Charity.

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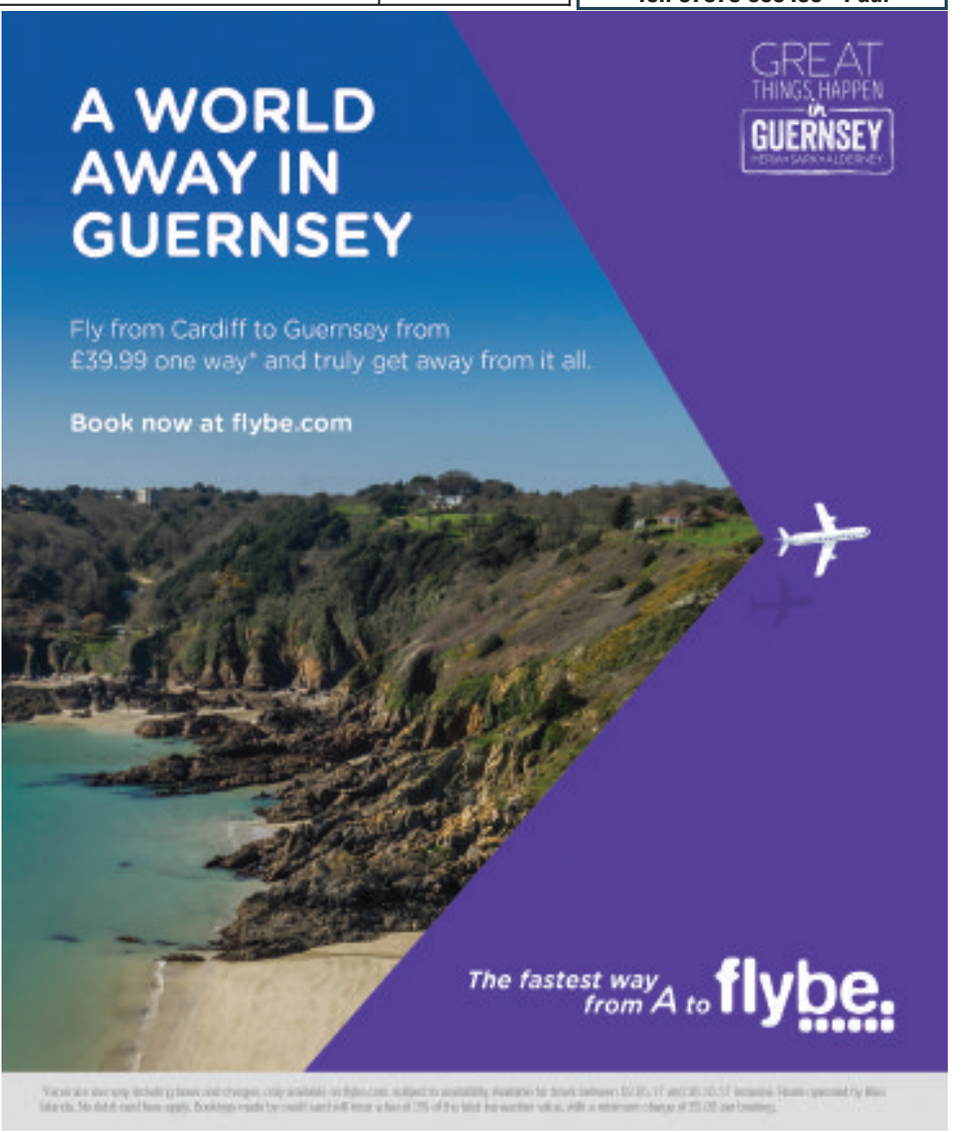

POLICE PRECEPT TO RISE BY 5 PER CENT

SOUTH Wales Police and Crime Panel has agreed to increase the police precept by 5 per cent – a move which it says will allow investment into protecting vulnerable people and maintaining neighbourhood policing.

The rise equates to an extra £10.39 per year (or 20p a week) for a band D household.

Police and Crime Commissioner Alun Michael said: "The increase is essential to help maintain the service, while allowing us to protect vulnerable people and invest in the future of policing in south Wales. I could not safely recommend a lower increase to the precept.

"Central Government is continuing to cut the grant to police forces. Next year, our grant has been cut by £2.2m. In real terms, the impact of this cut is far higher when we factor in additional burdens, such as the apprenticeship levy and increased pension costs.

"We have made tough decisions for a number of years in relation to how we deliver our services and our effective forward planning, combined with the innovative way in which we work with partners to keep south Wales safe, is why we are able to continue to meet financial challenges.

"We have taken a balanced approach to soften the impact on policing our communities, while keeping the burden on the rate payer to a minimum."

As well as receiving approval from the Police and Crime Panel, the precept proposals also had the support of the Police Federation, which represents officers from the rank of Constable to Chief Inspector

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Sentinel joins bus collection

THE Cardiff Transport Preservation Group based at the Bus Depot, Barry, has secured an unusual 65-year-old Sentinel bus with a Caerphilly-made body for its collection of historic vintage buses.

Late last year, a former-1944 Pontypridd partially-restored World War Two utility Bristol K6A double decker was brought to Barry from Norfolk.

Now it's the turn of a partially-restored Caerphilly-built bus from Yorkshire. This single deck bus is an example of a quite unusual manufacturer of motor vehicles, even in its heyday of the 1950s, and few survive today.

The 1950s Sentinel bus was spotted for sale by one of the preservation group's members, Clive Williams who realised it had a Caerphilly connection.

Sentinel of Shrewsbury provided the diesel engine and running gear but importantly to the Cardiff-based group, the bus with registration 'ODE 182' has bodywork designed and supplied by Welsh Metal Industries, a business based in Caerphilly.

It was new in 1952 to Edwards Bus Services of Cymmych in Pembrokeshire and became part of Mid Way Motors before it was sold on to another operator in England. The 65-year-old, 44-seat bus has been partly restored by John Hinchliffe of Yorkshire, but it will need additional restoration to complete it.

Mike Taylor, chairman of the Heritage Bus Group said: "The Sentinel with a Caerphilly-made body was a find that we just had to secure. It is under restoration with much of the interior and frames prepared ready for panels to be added, then it will need the connecting up of all its electrical components and restoring the engine.

"Sentinel may seem to some seem an unusual make of bus. The company existed between 1902 and 1957 and they were more famous for building railway steam locomotives, and steam powered road waggons.

"By1950, the company moved into the motor age with the manufacture of lorries along with a number of buses and a few touring coaches. In 1957, it was bought by Rolls Royce for diesel engine manufacture which later became Vickers Rolls Royce.

"The public will be able to see this unique Sentinel bus at the group's spring special 25th anniversary Running Day at The Bus Depot, Barry on Sunday, May 7.

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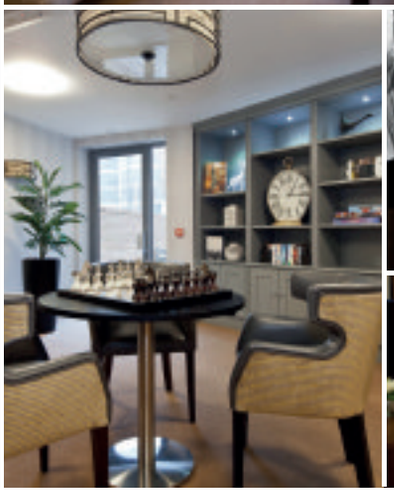

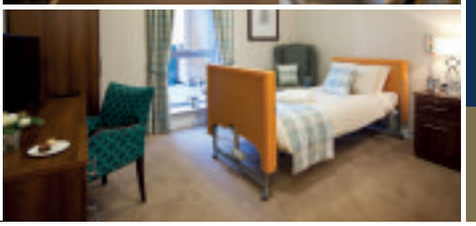
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'All passengers must be able to buy railway tickets'

SOUTH Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has expressed his concern at what appear to be disproportionate penalty fares being imposed on rail passengers on the Vale of Glamorgan line.

In a much publicised incident a woman from Barry was fined £616.30 after being unable to purchase a ticket on a train from Grangetown to Cardiff Bay.

The woman, who was pregnant at the time, claimed that the ticket machine on the station was broken, and then on the two trains she used to travel to her destination the ticket collector was unable to reach her due to overcrowding.

Mr Davies said he accepts that action must be taken to address deliberate fare dodging, but that disproportionate action should not apply to passengers who make genuine attempts to purchase a ticket but the opportunity is not available to them.

He has written to the managing director of Arriva Trains Wales, asking him to investigate the incident and ensure that if it is as has been reported, action is taken to remedy the situation.

He has also sought assurances that proper opportunities are made available for passengers to buy tickets, and that no passenger is penalised if this is not possible.

In particular, he has raised concerns relating to card-only machines at certain stations, which are obviously not accessible to all.

Mr Davies said: "No reasonable person would argue that fare dodgers should not be dealt with, but those who make a legitimate attempt to buy a ticket but find they are unable to should not be penalised."

Couple are thrilled with a suite delivery from The Place for Homes

LOCAL furniture store The Place for Homes has started to deliver free sofas and chairs to those in need throughout the Vale, using their own expert delivery teams and vehicles to undertake the task.

Rhian Francis, managing director, visited the homes of some of those benefiting from the free sofas and chairs and met some of the recipients.

"The first delivery attempt we made to Mr and Mrs Craven didn't go quite as smoothly as we hoped as the sofa and chairs that they had selected wouldn't fit through the front door!"

Not to be deterred the delivery staff measured all the access points and returned to the store with the measurements to find an alternative suite to fit in the property.

The following day the delivery team returned and successfully delivered a settee and two chairs.

Mr and Mrs Craven were thrilled, and thanked The Place For Homes for everything they had done to help.

Mrs Craven said: "We couldn't believe it when the first sofa and chairs wouldn't come in through the front door and we thought that would be it; but Rhian told us not to worry, they'd find us one that would come in and that's exactly what they've done!

"Our children will now have somewhere to sit and we can't believe how comfortable the sofas are."

Sofas and chairs are being given to couples, families and single parent families with young children who are identified as most in need by the Vale Council.

Many of those who have benefited have no other furniture in the home.

Deliveries will continue over the next few weeks and Rhian confirmed that The Place For Homes would continue with the initiative and work with the Vale of Glamorgan Council and housing associations in the future.

Mrs Craven (left) with The Place for Homes managing director Rhian Francis who made sure that after the first suite couldn't quite make it, the second one did!

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Ramblers in happy mood!

A SHORT train ride from Llanharan to Pencoed set the Vale Ramblers in a good mood for the start of Sunday's walk.

The ticket collector was a bit overawed when he opened the doors to 22 enthusiastic early morning ramblers, fully kitted with boots, gaiters, poles and backpacks, reminiscent of well-behaved but eager school children!

From Pencoed, they strode up over a wet and muddy Hirwaun Common and on to Mynyddy Gaer by the old drover's road past Taf Ely Windfarm, with windmills whirling.

Passing the remains of St Peter's Church, they quickly reached Llantrisant Forest and a downhill ascent to Llanharan. Technology enticed the walkers to check the 'game' score, feeling even more elated at the final score!

Visit www.valeofglamorgan.co.uk for further information.

JB

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WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN AND AROUND YOUR AREA

Action on Hearing

DO you have hearing loss? Would you like to be more confident with going online and using the Internet?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are working to make this possible. Every Friday starting March 3, Action on Hearing Wales will be based at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale, Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry from 10.30am to 12pm to provide help on using new technology.

Learn to make the most of your smartphone or tablet, learn about communication apps like FaceTime, Skype, Facebook, etc.

No appointment is needed, just come along for a chat and build your confidence and skills.

Contact Chris Lazo 02920 523129 or 01446 732385 for further information.

Cowbridge Art Society

ON February 16 Cowbridge Art Society welcomes retired art lecturer and award-winning artist Alan Salisbury (*www.alansalisbury.com*) who will talk about his working practices.

This will be an illustrated lecture 'Working from Art Historical Traditions' and include demonstration of his techniques.

The next meeting will be on March 2 when artist and author Paul Weaver (*www.paulweaverart.co.uk*) will give an acrylic demonstration of painting animals in a landscape.

The society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm – 9 pm) and occasional visitors and new members are most welcome. For details of the society's programme and activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Fundraising quiz night

BARRY RFC under-15s are hosting a quiz night on Friday, February 17 at 8pm at Barry Rugby Club, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry. Cost £2 per player; everyone welcome. Raffle, bar and refreshments.

Have a post-Christmas clear-out!

KPC Youth will hold a sale on Saturday, February 18 from 10am – 12 midday at KPC Youth & Community, off Pyle Inn Way, Pyle, Bridgend (CF33 6A).

Stalls available at £5, entry free. Refreshments. For further information contact: 01656 749219 745399 or kpcyouth@hotmail.com.

Joint advice surgery

A SURGERY will be held on February 18 by AM Huw Irranca-Davies and MP Chris Elmore at Evanstown Community Centre (CF39 8RP) between 9.30am and 10.30am. No appointment necessary.

Valeways guided walks

A WALK: Gwarchodfa Cwm Colhuw nature reserve on Sunday, February 22, meeting at 2pm at Gorsaf Reilffordd, Llanilltud Fawr.

On Thursday, February 26 'Round and about and backwards!', a walk of between seven and eight miles, will start from the Merrie Harrier pub in Llandough at 10am.

Half term fun

Griffin Books, Penarth's independent bookshop, will become Pooh Corner for the day on Wednesday, February 22!

Drop in any time between 10am and 3pm for Winnie the Pooh-themed activities, crafts and storytime with special prices on all Winnie the Pooh books. Free entry with refreshments provided. Call 02920 706455 for more information.

Relaxation and meditate

OVER-60s relaxation and mindful meditation classes are starting on Thursday, March 9 from 3.15pm to 4.15pm at the Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry and on Monday mornings at The Gathering Place in St Athan from 9.30am – 11.15am.

Relief from pain, anxiety, sleep disorders, and many other conditions. Meditation can reduce blood pressure and increase happiness.

Join Natalie, an experienced meditation teacher for easy-to-learn techniques. Cost £3.50. Call 07341 264686 for further information on any of these classes, or 01446 732385 (Age Connects Senior Health Shop).

Lunch of Champions

AN event takes place in the Bear Hotel, Cowbridge, on Friday, March 10 from 12.30pm to 3.30pm, when IBF Featherweight World Champion, Lee Selby and former WBO Cruiserweight Champion of the World, Enzo Maccarineli, will be giving an exclusive luncheon talk.

The event will be hosted by Nicky Piper (MBE and Former Commonwealth Light Heavyweight Champion).

Tickets are now on sale; see *www.lunchofchampions.co.uk* for further details; call 01446 775306 or 07749 881 644.

Carers Trust

Carers Trust Wales are undertaking a range of consultation exercises across Cardiff and the Vale to identify the value and purpose of unpaid carers, friends and family that do the caring .

They are looking at identifying the value and purpose of Carers' Forum and how to overcome any barriers to engagement.

They are keen to meet with established groups of carers during January, February and March.

If you know a group that might be interested in being part of the consultation, or would like further information, contact Denise Dyer, engagement officer at Carers Trust South East Wales on 07712 674398.

A meeting will be held at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, on Thursday, March 9 from 10am to 12pm if you would like to come along and fill in a confidential survey.

Ty Hafan lottery draw winners

THE following are winning numbers in the Ty Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery draw number D970:

- **The £2,000 rollover was not won this week.**
- **£2,000:** 370097.
- **£10:** 444550, 223138, 568799, 222928, 754777, 894621, 702546, 760701, 242409, 202433, 278945, 425419, 726491, 915333, 602944, 870701, 440147, 1639578, 1088, 1821.
- **£5:** 189265, 827199, 853521, 589538, 306646, 868132, 944609, 599079, 849954, 361613, 281379, 791118, 398129, 948541, 477469, 945727, 247323, 143677, 581588, 340998, 975905, 397128, 357422, 498216, 893661, 774376, 256753, 386261, 489393, 419096, 653714, 394310, 731472, 582477, 777151, 113210, 252410, 185505, 355459, 770594, 385600, 949125, 172725, 613311, 526143, 456337, 692755, 532597, 569739, 419116, 473869, 644013, 373381, 161108, 410940, 269067, 206198, 289946, 915829, 1012966.

The GEM cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions contained in the above.

For lottery information please telephone 029 2053 2300.

Try sky diving for Barnardo's – it's truly exhilarating!

BARNARDO'S is looking for people across Wales brave enough to make a sponsored 10,000 feet free-fall tandem parachute jump in aid of vulnerable children.

Dare-devils are being asked to join the children's charity's first ever UK Sky Dive Challenge and jump at one of nine sites across the UK – including Swansea – on July 2.

The registration deposit is £70 and participants will be required to raise £395 in sponsorship.

Senior event manager at Barnardo's, Matt Short, said: "This is the first time we've challenged people across the country to take part in a sky diving event.

"It promises to be great fun and is an opportunity for those who may not have done this type of activity before to push themselves.

"All money raised will be used to help vulnerable children supported by Barnardo's, such as those as young as five who care for a sick or disabled relative or those who have been sexually exploited."

For more information and to sign up, go to www.barnardos.org.uk/skydive or call Matt Short on 0208 498 7676.

'BIG FELL' EVENT

PORTHKERRY Country Park is set to host an event subsidised by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

February 18 will see the Millwood woodlands at the country park welcome Shire horses and tree-felling demonstrations, as well as other interactive demonstrations.

Visitors to the park will be able to make a bird table, take part in willow-weaving or an axe and sawing workshop, and get stuck into an array of bush craft activities.

The 'Big Fell' event is completely free of charge, with visitors being advised to park at the main car park, or walk to the Cwm Ciddi Sawmill and Millwood area of the park.

Visitors are advised to wear wellies, as the area in which the events are set to take place is likely to be muddy.

Porthkerry Country Park boasts 220 acres of woods and meadowland in a sheltered valley, which leads on to a pebble beach with spectacular cliffs. The park has a number of nature trails, picnic sites, a café, a play area, barbecue areas and mini golf course.

For more information on the Big Fell, or Porthkerry Country Park in general, call 01446 733589, or email Porthkerry@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk.

The Lego Batman Movie is a huge amount of fun!

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

IF *The Lego Movie* proved to be a surprise success back in 2014, then perhaps the standout character was even more surprising.

Amidst a raft of cameos from various characters, Lego Batman (voiced by Will Arnett) proved to be the highlight of the film, and unsurprisingly, the clamour for him to have his own film was such that, three years later, here we are with *The Lego Batman Movie*.

Arnett returns to voice the Dark Knight, who, depressed with his life as a playboy by day and vigilante at night, and after crime has been eradicated, is encouraged by his faithful butler Alfred (Ralph Fiennes) to throw his energy into something else; namely raising his ward, Dick Grayson (voiced by Michael Cera), which proves to be as taxing as battling the villains of Gotham City, such as the Joker (voiced by Zach Galifianakis), Harley Quinn (Jenny Slate) and many more...

After Zack Snyder's rather po-faced, super-severe take on Batman in last year's *Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice*, it seems the world is ready for a slightly less intense take on the Caped Crusader; after all, *The Lego Batman Movie* was never likely to go down the path of Snyder's Darker-than-Dark Knight.

Instead, we get a film that is a superb addition to the Batman film canon, one that is both committed to, and playfully pokes fun at, the mythology of the character and his supporting cast, and one that skewers its subject matter with loving mockery.

The only downside is that the film front loads this irreverent take on the character, and the second half of the film reverts to traditional storytelling and humour, which slightly takes the sheen off proceedings.

It's always hard to take a secondary character (as Batman was in *The Lego Movie*) and see if they can sustain and hold up their own 100-minute film. With Batman it's made easier by the fact that the character and story has 78 years of backstory and no end of characters (even the Condiment King) to bring into the plot.

So what you get is a story that amplifies the character we met in The Lego Movie; a loner with a strong sense of self-worth unable to see the world around him.

With such a character, spending this amount of time around him could become tiresome, but thanks to Will Arnett's ability to play the role completely deadpan it never does, and as the story amplifies Batman's issues (adopting Dick Grayson, battling the Joker and an assorted pick 'n mix bag of adversaries) his frustration and anger become ever more entertaining.

While the underlying message of the film is all about teamwork (a noble one that kids will digest amongst the brightly coloured visuals), there are also so many gags for both grown-ups and Batman aficionados to savour.

Whether it's the mocking of the Joker's evil schemes, Batman's seeming inability to catch his most well-known villains, or subtle digs at the past films, the humour comes from a reverential angle, while the number of Batman TV series jokes show where the film's writers get much of their influence from.

It all works superbly well, but then loses its direction a little come the final third; the sharp humour that plays with the character's history is replaced by generic gags, and the plot lays on the teamwork message a little too broadly.

The oomph and fizz of earlier just lags a little (a common issue with the majority of comedy films to be fair), and the climax, while thoroughly inventive visually, just lacks the narrative invention to end the film on a high.

That said, there is much right with this film. The use of Barbara Gordon as the commissioner rather than her father is a nice note, as is her moral superiority over Batman, while the Easter eggs are a treasure trove of DC comics references that are a joy to behold.

A slightly cumbersome conclusion aside, *The Lego Batman Movie* is a hugely entertaining piece of work.

VERDICT – A funny film not afraid to bite the hand that feeds, *The Lego Batman Movie* is a wonderful watch. Packed with enough minute detail to satisfy the most ardent Bat-fan, and working broadly enough on its own terms, it's only undone by a lag in pace come the final third; that aside, it's a superb effort. Recommended.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Lego Movie* (2014), *Batman Forever (1995)*

Folk tales for children

TRAVEL on a magical journey through the beautiful landscape of Glamorgan with this unique collection of folk tales retold for children by a professional storyteller.

Of her book *Glamorgan Folk Tales*, author Cath Little said: "These are our treasures, our intangible heritage; these ancient tales connect us with one another, with the land and with the people who once lived here.

"I love these old stories and I wanted to help pass them on and keep them alive on the tongue."

Glamorgan Folk Tales, by Cardiff-born professional storyteller Cath Little, is suitable for primary school-aged children, and is published by The History Press and it is illustrated by Peter Stevenson.

Barnardo's support for families of veterans

FAMILIES of Welsh Armed Forces veterans struggling to cope with civilian life are to get support from a new service being launched by Barnardo's Cymru.

The UK's largest children's charity will be providing therapeutic and practical support for families of veterans finding it hard to adjust in the community, caught in the Criminal Justice System, or at risk of falling into crime.

The Families of Veterans' Support Service (FVSS) will be launched today at 12.30pm at the Senedd, Cardiff Bay with Carl Sargeant, Welsh Government Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children, and Melloney Poole, head of the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, which has provided £433,000 to fund the project.

The Valley Military Wives Choir have travelled from Anglesey to provide the music.

The launch of the new service follows research by the Royal British Legion which shows that working age veterans are at greater risk of depression, chronic health conditions and poverty and are also more likely to have unpaid caring responsibilities.

Research has also found that those who experienced difficulties – such as school expulsion or having parents with drug or alcohol problems – before entering the military are more likely to be experiencing difficulties now.

Dr Sam Clutton, assistant director of policy for Barnardo's Cymru, said: "Service families are often faced with unique challenges, ranging from family members returning home with a combat injury or illness such as post traumatic stress disorder, to children having to adapt to a succession of new schools, disrupting their education and limiting their opportunities to sustain long term friendships.

"During their time in the Services there is a shared understanding of the issues that are faced by veterans and formal and informal support networks are in place, but on leaving the Forces these are often lost."

The charity has been working with the Royal British Legion and other Forces' charities, Integrated Offender Management Cymru and South Wales Police to develop a consistent pathway that ensures veterans and their families can access Barnardo's services to address multiple needs.

Barnardo's Cymru will also be working with the Endeavour veterans' wing in HMP Parc Prison, Pencoed and the veterans' wing at the new HMP Berwyn, Wrexham, to identify and offer support to families who need extra help when the veteran is serving a prison sentence.

Children with a parent in prison often struggle in school and can feel a sense of loss. They are also more likely to end up in the criminal justice system themselves and suffer from mental health issues.

The service will promote a whole family approach with an emphasis on early intervention where specific multiple support needs have been identified to build resiliance in children and their families.

Ant Metcalfe, Wales area manager of the Royal British Legion, said: 'The Armed Forces community in Wales make a huge contribution to the nation as a whole and have a wealth of skills and knowledge that can and do, provide huge benefits to our communities.

"Although the majority of Armed Forces personnel will transition well into civilian life, some will encounter difficulties, and it is essential the right support is in place for them and for their families. This service will provide welcome support for families who may have a wide range of support needs and we look forward to building on our joint working with Barnardo's Cymru and the other partners."

FVSS will be launched at the Senedd, Cardiff Bay on Thursday, February 9 at 12.30pm.

For further information contact Barnardo's Cymru media and communications manager Margaret O'Reilly on 029 2043 6229/07827 977830.

A case history:

Helen Cottrell knows exactly how difficult life can be for the families of veterans.

Her husband Richard, who joined the Army as a teenager, left the Royal Welsh in 2012, hoping to move into close protection work. But finding it difficult to get regular employment he fell into depression and suffered Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Things became so bad that he considered killing himself.

Helen found the stress of caring for him and her daughter, who has special educational needs, overwhelming and began suffering from depression herself.

"I was at breaking point. I had no one to talk to and explain that I needed help. Not knowing what was available or how to get help were the hardest things. Without the intervention from Barnardo's Cymru I don't know where things would have ended," said Helen who lives near Blackwood.

Helen now receives regular support visits from Karen Djohari from Barnardo's Cymru's Families of Veterans Support Service. Helen said: "It can be very difficult for military families who are used to living in a bubble with all the support from the regiment and other families.

"Once partners have left the services it can be difficult to connect with any support and that leaves people feeling very isolated; even their own families don't understand or know how to deal with issues such as PTSD.

"Richard was trying really hard to provide for the family when he left the Army but the work wasn't regular so there were months when we couldn't pay the bills. He wasn't coping, anxiety led to depression and the return of PTSD and he wanted to do something silly. We have got through the worst of it but it's been really hard at times.

"My husband fought for Queen and country, he has put his life on the line and lost friends, he has been through a lot. But when veterans return to civilian life they often have to face stigma because they were in the military, they don't feel welcome. They can be made to feel worthless and end up locking themselves away, unable to face going to crowded places."

Karen has helped Helen in her fight to get a statement of special educational needs for her daughter and has encouraged her to return to college. Helen now has her sights on becoming a forensic psychologist.

"Barnardo's Cymru have been fantastic for us as a family. Whenever I felt things were too much for me or I just couldn't face doing something Karen would say, 'Yes you can'. She would get me through it. I feel I've known her a lifetime and she never lets me down," said Helen.

ZERO TOLERANCE DAY FOR FGM

FEMALE Genital Mutilation (FGM) Zero Tolerance Day took place on February 6 and trade union UNISON Cymru/Wales, has called for more to be done to stop the illegal practice.

A spokesperson said that as recently as 2014, the Wales FGM Forum reported that more than 600 women are living with full or partially-removed genitals in Wales.

Jennifer Griffin, UNISON Cymru/Wales organiser for Women's rights, said: "This is another abuse and human rights violation to girls. It is time to stand together and change the actions of others that affect girls and women's lives globally, on a daily basis.

"Back street surgeries and home mutilations are still going on throughout the world. The more awareness we can raise, the more victims or potential victims will come forward to help stop this ritual abuse.

"FGM is now a serious crime which results in a jail sentence but we need to do more to support the victims to report this atrocious act and help them to feel safe when reporting this abuse.

"We need to create more cultural and religious awareness for children and young girls that the ritual is barbaric, they do not have to go through this and that they can be protected."

The trade union commended the development of an NHS all-Wales clinical pathway for use with all women with FGM.

Friends and Neighbours

FRIENDS and Neighbours Group meet at Beryl Road Pioneer Hall monthly with the support of Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop.

Contact Gay Fifield on 01446 400044 for further information.

Y Bont fundraisers sought

CHILDREN'S charity Y Bont are appealing for help in organising their midsummer afternoon tea, which will take place in June this year.

If you feel that you can help, call 01656 646013 for information.

A PACKED HOUSE IN PORTHCAWL FOR CHRISTMAS SWIM PRESENTATION NIGHT

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

THE annual presentation evening to charities benefiting from the Porthcawl Christmas Swim took place recently at The Hi Tide Inn, Porthcawl, where 26 cheque recipients, along with guests, sponsors and committee members attended.

A total of £12,500 was distributed to charities and organisations in the Porthcawl area. This included money raised at Porthcawl Carnival, as well as at the swim.

A further £2,100 was donated from Rev Canon Philip Masson and family. Rev Phillip took part in the 2016 swim, along with three of his daughters.

The chairman of the Swim Committee, Dave King welcomed everyone to the Hi Tide. Following the introductions Coun Robert Lee, the Mayor of Porthcawl, was invited to say a words and receive a donation for the Mayor's Fund.

The main recipients from the 2016 Carnival was Porthcawl Rock Club and Porthcawl Y Centre. For the 2016 Swim, it was the Emyr Owen Branch of LATCH.

Other recipients included local branches of Samaritans, Kidney Research, Parkinson's Support Group, Guide Dogs, Porthcawl RFC Juniors, Porthcawl Stroke Club, Trinity Care & Support, Porthcawl Lifeguards, Ty Ellis, Porthcawl Athletic, PAODS, Porthcawl Sea Cadets, Porthcawl Museum & Historical Society, Porthcawl Coast Watch, Porthcawl & Pyle Pumas, Sandville, the Emergency Services, RNLI, Coast Guard, St John Ambulance, Porthcawl Fire Service and also the Noah's Ark 'Tiny Lives' Appeal.

A number of recipients responded with their appreciation and told their stories – some poignant moments that touched hearts!

Tributes were paid to David Lewis ('Dai Splash') who passed away last year. Mr Lewis attended many Christmas Morning Swims and raised many hundreds of pounds over the years.

He was a past chairman of Penybont Surf Life Saving Club. The current chairman, Mike Allen, received a donation on behalf of Penybont Surf Life Saving and gave his own tribute to Mr Lewis.

Dave King encouraged more support for the Carnival this year please. (*Check out the Facebook page or Web page. www.porthcawlcarnival.co.uk*)

On completion of the presentations, the raffle was drawn. A wonderful buffet was served by the Hi Tide and entertainment was provided by Porthcawl Rock Club, who were terrific, well done all you 'Rising Stars'

Dave went on the thank Mr. Hugh Murry of Porthcawl Surf School, Rest Bay and congratulated him on this award in 2016 'Best UK Surf School'.

He thanked Porthcawl Town Council for their continued support, sponsors, advertisers, the Hi Tide management and staff, the committees and of course the swimmers, the organisations that enter floats and the general public who continue to support and donate.

Here's hoping for a record breaking Carnival and Swim in 2017 – two of the premier events in Porthcawl's calendar.

DK

Paul Joseph of Porthcawl Museum with Kerry Marlow

Raul Arrieta of Porthcawl Rock Club.

Jeff Toombs, Dr David Parry and Jean Schofield (Porthcawl KRUF).

Jeff Toombs with members of Porthcawl Stroke Club.

College student Briony is setting off to help the needy in Swaziland

A CARPENTRY student from Cardiff and Vale College is to travel to Africa to help an initiative which supports projects that alleviate poverty through creating opportunities for women and children.

Briony Adams in one of the carpentry workshops at CAVC's Barry campus.

Sixteen-year-old Briony Adams will fly out to Swaziland at Easter to volunteer for the SAFE Foundation and Positive Women, who work on a number of projects to promote social change in the country.

"I will be teaching kids to make little things out of wood that they can sell, rather than selling themselves for food or a place to sleep," said Briony.

"There are two charities involved – Positive Women and the SAFE Foundation. They're amazing and do such great work."

Positive Women is based in Swaziland and works with local organisations to bring about effective and sustainable change through healthcare and nutrition programmes and investing in creating skills, tools and opportunities that allow people to fulfil their potential.

The SAFE Foundation assists in the provision of grants of money and materials to combat poverty in developing countries. The two bodies will pay for Briony's flights, injections and accommodation.

Briony found out about the Swaziland project almost by accident.

"I don't check my email as often as I should, but one night I thought I look through them," she explained. "I saw an email to my college account asking for people who could teach carpentry skills and I thought 'I'm going to Africa!'

"I got in touch with the SAFE Foundation and Positive Women and did my research; 15 per cent of the population are vulnerable children and they often head the household, and 75 per cent don't have a toilet. It's very upsetting."

Travelling in April, Briony will spend three weeks in a rural community in Swaziland teaching vulnerable children to make wooden items they can sell to support themselves. She aims to continue working with the SAFE Foundation when she returns.

"I'm so excited to be going. I will be able to help people who haven't had the kind of opportunities that I have had – we take things for granted and don't really realise until something like this happens and you find out about it."

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news... **www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

TOP CHEFS PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS FOR TY HAFAN

The chefs who offered their skills to help Ty Hafan.

TOP chefs from around the UK have stepped in to raise an amazing £150,000 for Ty Hafan by cooking a memorable meal in Cardiff.

Chefs' Night Out took over the kitchens of St David's Hotel in Cardiff Bay for an exclusive night of fine food and wine in aid of the children's hospice.

The event's success brings the total raised by Chefs' Night Out to more than half a million pounds since its inception in 2010.

During the evening, each table of diners was treated to a delicious meal cooked by one of the chefs – but they didn't know who would be cooking for them until service began.

In a special twist, the stellar line-up of 15 chefs, including The Hardwick's Stephen Terry, Coast's Will Holland and the River Café's Sian Wyn Owen, offered their culinary services off-menu in an after-dinner auction.

Generous diners made bids for their favourite chef – with the prize being a dinner party for 10 at their own home cooked by the chef at a later date.

Tŷ Hafan is a charity close to the hearts of organisers David Loosemore and Huw Edwards, who started Chefs' Night Out to raise funds for the children's hospice and the support it provides for life-limited children and their families.

David Loosemore said: "Raising £150,000 for such a worthwhile cause as Tŷ Hafan is both an inspiring and humbling experience.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of our guests, our chefs and all the helpers involved. The Chefs' Night Out family continues to grow and we hope to host many more dinners in the future."

Huw Edwards added: "We are continually amazed by not only our guests, in raising £150,000 for Tŷ Hafan, but also the generosity of the chefs, restaurants and their suppliers in giving not only their time but also all of their produce and wine for free. It really does make the whole event succeed."

Mair Kinsey, interim events manager at Tŷ Hafan, said: "Through their dedication and commitment, David and Huw have raised £600,000 in total for Tŷ Hafan since they launched Chefs' Night Out in 2010.

"This money makes a world of difference to the lives of children and young people with life-limiting conditions and their families across Wales.

"Thank you to David and Huw, all the chefs who have generously donated their time and skills, and of course, to everyone who gave so generously on the evening itself."

The stellar line-up of chefs included: Hywel Jones – Lucknam Park; Stephen Terry – The Hardwick; Will Holland – Coast Saundersfoot; Mark Jordan – Ocean, Jersey; Tomos Parry – Kittie Fishers; Alistair Barsby – The Grove, Narberth; Sian Wyn Owen – River Cafe; Phil Carmichael – Berners Tavern; Juan Galvez – Marbella Club; Ludo Dieumegard – The Harbourmaster; David Kelman – Old Swan & Minster Mill; Richard Davies – Epicure; Hrishikesh Desai – Gilpin Hotel & Lake House; Andrew Birch – Fishmore Hall; Simon Padilla – Puente Romano; Hywel Griffith – Beach House, Oxwich.

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AM VISITS MUSIC IN MIND GROUP

THE Vale AM, Jane Hutt, visited the 'With Music in Mind' group in Barry on January 30.

"There was a friendly and welcoming atmosphere and the group sang a variety of songs and enjoyed socialising," a spokesperson for the group reported.

"With Music in Mind aims to improve well-being and mental health, as well as reducing stress, which are proven benefits of singing in a group. The group welcomes everyone – there is no need for any previous experience."

It was set up by Sarah Miles and Kate Whitestone to help combat social isolation and loneliness. They, along with pianist Meryn Williams, organise singing groups in communities in south Wales.

The Barry group was formed following the success of the Cowbridge group and meets on Mondays between 10.30am and 12.30pm in the Margaret Alexander Community Centre.

The AM said: "It is a wonderful way for people to have the opportunity to sing and have fun."

If you are interested in finding out more about the group, email info@withmusicinmind.co.uk or on 07500 776 295.

Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club

The next meeting of the Llancarfan Ladies Tuesday Club is on Tuesday, February 21 at 7.45pm in Llancarfan Village Hall, when speaker Berndatte of The Emmett Technique organisation will explain and demonstrate the Emmett Technique.

It can help with a wide variety of aches and pains from golfer's elbow to headaches, indigestion in adults and for children with breathing and muscular problems.

All will be welcome; refreshments and raffle.

Councillors' surgery

THE Labour Vale and town councillors for Buttrills, Castleland and Court wards, Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans, Chris Elmore, Les Sword, Karl Khunell and Stuart Egan will be holding their regular, monthly advice surgery on Saturday, February 18 from 10am-11am in the Small Community Room, Barry Library, Kings Square. No appointment necessary.

Occupational therapist honoured

ABMU's head of occupational therapy has been recognised for her outstanding contribution to the profession.

Sara Forster.

Sara Forster, who is based at Princess of Wales Hospital, has been honoured with the College of Occupational Therapists' Merit Award following a nomination by colleagues.

"I have no idea who nominated me. I am delighted to have been recognised but I have always felt like I have just been doing my job, even though it is a job I love," she said.

Sara has spent the past 36 years working in Bridgend, moving there soon after qualifying and has seen the profession grow. There are now 350 staff working across ABMU.

When she first started at the old Bridgend General Hospital she was its only occupational therapist and also covered community hospitals at Maesteg, Maesgwyn, Cefn Hirgoed and Blackmill.

Sara, who has served as a council representative and as Chair of the British Association and College of Occupational Therapists, explained: "I am happy to say one of the things that has changed most during my career is the recognition the profession now enjoys."

She will receive the award, established to celebrate excellence by peers, at an event in London later this year, by which time she will have retired from post.

"I didn't ever set out to become a manager but I do still have some time for clinical work and the most satisfying part of the job is always working with patients."

Sara, who is originally from Ferryside but now lives in Cardiff, added: "What OTs do really can make a difference to people's lives and the job sees you dealing with every kind of patient – from newborns to those who are coming to the end of their life.

"Being an occupational therapist you are helping people to live the way they want to live. I am very proud of my profession and my career in it."

HOMES & Gardens

March will tempt us back into the garden

Time outside is a real therapy!

MARCH will soon be upon us and will hopefully bring some sunny days to tempt gardeners back into the garden.

This is the month for sowing seeds and getting the garden ready for the summer months ahead, which includes a general tidy-up and some essential pruning.

Pruning is not only therapeutic for plants, but gardeners as well – getting rid of all that dead wood and preparing for new growth and flowers.

You need to remove dead, diseased or damaged stems from roses. Shrubs and climbers will also need pruning to encourage good, healthy growth.

Seed sowing should be at the top of your 'to do' list at the moment. Give seeds soil that is wet and warm enough and off they go, and the bigger the seed the deeper it needs to be in the soil to germinate.

Some seeds can be sown direct into the ground, such as vegetables, while some prefer to be in seed trays and a slighter warmer environment to be given a good fighting chance.

March is also a good planting time for more mature plants, so think ahead to not just summer but autumn as well, and try to plan your planting for all year round colour in the garden.

For a bit of instant colour you could think about a hanging basket. A simple garden solution for March is to create your own hanging basket in the colour scheme of your choice mixing hardy annuals with small evergreen shrubs for all year round interest.

Although most baskets are planted in early spring and put outdoors after the risk of frost has passed, they can also be filled with frost hardy flowers and tough evergreens for colour over winter. Don't forget to water regularly and boost growth with a weekly liquid feed.

A plant that is perfect for winter baskets and containers is the Vinca, which is part of the periwinkle family.

Vinca minor is also a favourite with gardeners for providing ground cover and can be planted in smaller beds and borders. It's a great way of providing cover for poor, dry and slightly shady garden areas and its creeping and arching stems soon make an attractive carpet of bright green foliage.

Spring seems tantalizingly close in March and Vinca will grow in most soil types, but like most other plants, requires good drainage.

Spring seems tantalizingly close in March and work in the garden starts to get going again.

Here are some jobs you should be thinking about this month: start to prune roses, removing dead damaged or diseased stems; tidy up the lawn; keep your eyes peeled for weeds and slugs; sow vegetable seeds and plant potatoes; start composting and conserving water; and re-pot houseplants.

SM

Soon Spring will be on its way and our thoughts turn to work in the garden.

Barry Floral Society celebrates anniversary

THIS year, members of the Barry Floral Society are celebrating the 55th anniversary of the formation of the club, so in the next few weeks members will have a full programme of events.

On February 28, Ms Beverly Clay of Rhiwbina will present a demonstration entitled 'Men, Me and Flowers'.

At 'Festive Flowers' on March 14, Rev Kevin Davies will entertain members and friends with his floral skills and chat. This will be followed by afternoon tea (with celebration cake!).

To complete the celebrations, on March 28 Ms Sally Taylor, area demonstrator from Yate will be 'Sallying Forth Once Again'.

All meetings will be held at the St Nicholas Hall, St Nicholas Road, Barry commencing at 2.15pm; new members are always welcome.

Over 55 years the members – besides enjoying many happy hours visiting gardens and participating in shows and flower festivals – have each year donated to a local charity; it amounts to thousands of pounds over the years.

This year the chosen charity is Innovate Organics which supports the organic garden centre, cultivated by people with special needs which is based at The Amelia Trust Farm near Barry.

Joan Kruger, programme secretary.

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REINVENTING THE CONSERVATORY ROOF REPLACEMENT & CONSERVATORY UPGRADE OPTIONS

As few as five years ago, polycarbonate would have been the main choice for a conservatory roof.

While letting plenty of light in, some found that their conservatories could be too bright and in summer, while cool in winter.

Building technology has moved on, and there are now two solid roofs that can convert a conservatory into a room with a more stable ambient temperature.

The first is a lightweight, 'tiled' roof that takes its design cues from the slates and tiles found on most UK houses.

Created using aluminium panels, with Kingspan insulation, these conservatory roofs can achieve a u value of just 0.16, similar to that of a normally constructed, modern roof.

With this roof option, the interior of the conservatory can include a plastered ceiling with down-lighters or even roof windows for ventilation and sky views.

For a more contemporary feel, the LivinRoof combines sleek lines and thermal efficiency to create something that looks very contemporary.

With the LivinRoof, entire panels can be glazed to create a hybrid solid and glass roof allowing you to choose where to have shaded areas and where to have more light.

Either of these roofs can be retrofitted to an existing structure, to make your conservatory more comfortable in the height of summer and depths of winter.

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2 Orangeries on display

Activ Glass roof

A straightforward upgrade for those who want to keep an uninterrupted view of the blue skies up above is to opt for a modern, low emissivity (low-e) 'Activ', energy efficient glass roof.

Helping to reduce the variations in temperature associated with older, traditional glass or polycarbonate roofs, 'Activ' low-e glass helps cut solar glare, protect furniture from fading and keep heat in during the winter months.

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GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(GWAHARDD A CHYFYNGU MANNAU AROS A LLWYTHO A PHARCIO) (GORFODI SIFIL) (DIWYGIAD) (RHIF 1A a 2A) 2016

1. Ar 16 Chwefror 2017 gwnaeth Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adrannau 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 a 124 a Rhan IV Atodlen 9 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig 1984 a Rhan 6 Deddf Rheoli Traffig 2004 a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill, Orchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a nodir yn yr Atodlen isod.

2. Bydd y Gorchymyn yn dod i rym ar 20 Chwefror 2017 neu ar y dyddiad y gosodir yr arwyddion a'r marciau ffordd, pa un bynnag sydd hwyraf, ac enw'r Gorchymyn fydd "Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Gwahardd a Chyfyngu Mannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio) (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygiad) (Rhif 1A a 2A) 2016"

3. Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn a'r cynlluniau'n dangos yr ardaloedd yr effeithir arnynt yn y cyfeiriad isod yn ystod oriau swyddfa arferol.

4. Os ydych am gwestiynu dilysrwydd y Gorchymyn neu'r darpariaethau ynddo ar y sail nad ydynt yn unol â'r pwerau a ddyfarnwyd gan y Ddeddf uchod neu ar y sail nas cydymffurfiwyd ag unrhyw un o ofynion y Ddeddf, neu unrhyw offeryn a wnaed dan y Ddeddf mewn perthynas â'r Gorchymyn, gallwch, o fewn chwe wythnos o 20 Chwefror 2017, wneud cais i'r Uchel Lys at y diben hwn.

Mae'r Gorchymyn Rheoleiddio Traffig canlynol i gael ei ddiwygio fel a ganlyn:

Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Gwahardd a Chyfyngu Mannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio) (Gorfodi Sifil) 2013

Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Gwahardd a Chyfyngu Mannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio) (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygiad) (Rhif 1) 2016

Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg (Gwahardd a Chyfyngu Mannau Aros a Llwytho a Pharcio) (Gorfodi Sifil) (Diwygiad) (Rhif 2) 2016

ATODLEN

'Dim Aros ar Unrhyw Adeg' Arfaethedig

Llwyn Passat Penarth – Map AH65

Ar ochr y dwyrain o derfyn y briffordd fabwysiedig, a thua'r gorllewin am 23 metr ar ochr y gogledd o gwmpas y pen sy'n troi.

Woodland Place Penarth – Map AK64

Ar ochr ogleddol Woodland Place sy'n agos i ymyl dwyreiniol y man parcio i bobl anabl cyfredol o flaen eiddo rhif 22, o gwmpas y troad y tu mewn i leoliad wrth ochr rhif 23, tua 20 metr.

Llanquian Road (Cross Tree) Aberthin – Map Z30

Ar ochr y gogledd, o'r bont fach ar hyd yr afon am tua 30 metr tua'r gogledd-orllewin.

Dyddiedig 16 Chwefror 2017.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Depo'r Alpau,
Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF WAITING AND LOADING AND PARKING PLACES) (CIVIL ENFORCEMENT) (AMENDMENT) (NO 1A & 2A) ORDER 2016

1. On the 16th February 2017 The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, 32, 35, 45, 46, 53 and 124 and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 and Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers made an Order the general effect of which is as described below:

2. The Order will come into operation on 20th February 2017 or on the dates that the signs and road markings are in place whichever is the later and be known as the "Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No 1A & 2A) Order 2016"

3. A copy of the Order and plans showing the affected areas may be seen at the address shown below during normal office hours.

4. If you wish to question the validity of the Order or any provisions contained therein on the grounds that they are not within the powers conferred by the above Act or on the grounds that any requirement of the same or that any instrument made under it has not been complied with in relation to the Order, you may within six weeks from the 20th February 2017 apply to the High Court for this purpose.

The following Traffic Regulation Orders are to be amended as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) Order 2013

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No1) Order 2016

Vale of Glamorgan Council (Prohibition and Restriction of Waiting and Loading and Parking Places) (Civil Enforcement) (Amendment) (No2) Order 2016

SCHEDULE

Proposed 'No Waiting at Any Time'

Llwyn Passat Penarth – Map AH65

On the eastern end from the boundary of the adopted highway, in a westerly direction for 23 metres on its north side around the turning head.

Woodland Place Penarth – Map AK64

On the northern side of Woodland Place contiguous with the eastern edge of the existing disabled parking bay in front of property no. 22, around the inside bend to a location at the side of no.23, approximately 20 metres.

Llanquian Road (Cross Tree) Aberthin – Map Z30

On the northern side, from the small bridge alongside the stream for a distance of approximately 30 metres in a north westerly direction.

Dated this 16th day of February 2017.

M. E Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps Depot,
Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

Go to the The GEM for the latest stories and breaking news... www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

(A4050 PORT ROAD (DWYRAIN) (RHAN) A A4231 FFORDD GYSWLLT DOCIAU'R BARRI (RHAN)), CYFYNGIAD CYFLYMDER 30MYA A 40MYA 2017

Mae Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wrth arfer ei bwerau dan Adran 14 Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 (fel y'i diwygiwyd) a'r holl bwerau galluogi eraill, yn bwriadu, o fewn dim llai na saith diwrnod o ddyddiad yr Hysbysiad hwn, wneud Gorchymyn a fydd yn gwneud yr hyn a ddisgrifir yn yr atodlenni isod: -

ATODLEN 1

1. Ni fydd unrhyw berson yn achosi neu'n caniatáu i gerbyd modur deithio'n gyflymach na 40 m.y.a. yn y lleoliadau a nodir yn Atodlen 2 isod.

ATODLEN 2

Lleoliadau Y rhan o A4050 Port Road (Dwyrain) yr effeithir arni yw o bwynt tua 70 metr i'r de-orllewin o'r gyffordd ag A4231 Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri, i bwynt 300m i'r gogledd-orllewin o'r gyffordd honno.

Y rhan o A4231 Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri o'r gyffordd ag A4050 Port Road (Dwyrain) tua'r de am 75 metr.

ATODLEN 3

2. Ni fydd unrhyw berson yn achosi neu'n caniatáu i gerbyd modur deithio'n gyflymach na 30 m.y.a. yn y lleoliad a nodir yn Atodlen 4 isod.

ATODLEN 4

Lleoliadau Y rhan o A4050 Port Road (Dwyrain) yr effeithir arni yw o gylchfan Depo'r Alpau wrth gyfeirnod grid 312108 173959 tua'r gogledd i derfyn y Sir wrth Groes Cwrlwys.

Yn ogystal, caiff y Gorchmynion a elwir yn "Gorchymyn Bro Morgannwg A4050 Port Road (Dwyrain) y Barri (Diwygio Cyfyngiad Cyflymder 40 / 50 m.y.a. cyfredol 2011" a " Gorchymyn Cyngor Bro Morgannwg(A4231 Ffordd Gyswllt Dociau'r Barri) (Cyfyngiad Cyflymder 50mya) 2005 eu gohirio'n rhannol tra bydd y Gorchmynion hyn mewn grym.

Rheswm Galluogi adeiladu cynigion metro newydd ynghyd â gwella'r droedffordd a lonydd beiciau

Hyd O 06:00 ddydd Mercher 1 Mawrth 2017 am hyd at 18 mis neu nes y caiff yr Arwyddion Traffig 30mya a 40 mya eu symud, p'un bynnaga ddaw gyntaf.

Dyddiedig 16 Chwefror 2017.

M. E. Punter,
Cyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Gweladwy a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg,
Depo'r Alpau,
Gwenfô. CF5 6AA.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

(A4050 PORT ROAD (EAST) (PART) AND A4231 BARRY DOCKS LINK ROAD (PART)), 30MPH AND 40MPH SPEED RESTRICTION (TEMPORARY) ORDER 2017

The Vale of Glamorgan Council in exercise of its powers under Section 14 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended), and of all other enabling powers intends in not less than seven days from the date of this Notice to make an Order the general effect of which is as described in the schedules below: -

SCHEDULE 1

1. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 40 mph in the locations specified in Schedule 2 below.

SCHEDULE 2

Locations The area of the A4050 Port Road (East), affected is from a point approximately 70 metres southwest of the junction with A4231 Barry Docks Link Road, to a point 300m northwest of that junction.

The area of the A4231 Barry Docks Link Road from its junction with the A4050 Port Road (East) in a southerly direction for a distance of 75 metres.

SCHEDULE 3

2. No person shall cause or permit a motor vehicle to travel at a speed greater than 30 mph in the location specified in Schedule 4 below.

SCHEDULE 4

Location The area of the A4050 Port Road (East), affected is from the Alps Depot Roundabout at grid ref is 312108 173959 in a generally northerly direction to the County Boundary at Culverhouse Cross.

In addition, the Orders known as "The Vale of Glamorgan A4050 Port Road (East) Barry (Amendment to Existing 40 / 50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2011" and "The Vale of Glamorgan Council (A4231 Docks Link Road, Barry) (50mph Speed Restriction) Order 2005 shall be suspended in part for the duration of this Order.

Reason To allow for the construction of new metro proposals together with improvements to footway and cycle lanes

Duration From 06:00Hrs on Wednesday 1st March 2017, for a maximum period of 18 months or until the 30mph and 40mph Traffic Signs are removed, whichever is the sooner.

Dated this 16th day of February 2017.

M. E Punter,
Director of Visible Services & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
The Alps Depot,
Wenvoe. CF5 6AA.

'Express Yourself! and win a prize'

– says children's author

Children's author Sarah Kilbride will be judging entries.

CHILDREN'S author Sarah Kilbride is reminding local children that there is still time to 'express themselves' this half term, in a top writing competition hosted by National Express.

Author Sarah, who is judging the short story competition – 'Express Yourself' – is calling on young people aged seven to 16 to put pen to paper during the half term holidays and enter the competition, as the deadline has been extended until the end of March.

Launched in celebration of its onboard entertainment system VUER (View, Unwind, Enjoy, Relax), the winning stories (with the theme of 'happy travelling'), will be published in an online storybook, in 'VUER', for passengers to enjoy as they travel. Each winner will also receive a £500 cheque.

Sarah Kilbride, known for her *Princess Evie's Ponies* books, will be judging entries from Bridgend.

She said: "I'm so excited to be involved with Express Yourself. I work with lots of young people and am always inspired by their imagination and creativity.

"If you know someone who loves stories, tell them to sharpen their pencils and get scribbling – this competition is a fantastic opportunity to get their work read and win a prize!"

Entrants should write a story of up to, but no more than, 1,000 words, and the competition closes on March 31. See www.nationalexpress.com/author for details.

DOG OF THE WEEK: Shy Jasmine

DOGS Trust in Bridgend's Dog of the Week is Jasmine, a lovely Sharpei.

Jasmine is four years old and can be a little shy to start with, but once she gets to know you, she is really friendly.

Her forever home needs to continue with her off-lead exercise, training to recall and socialising with other dogs. Jasmine loves her treats and will work for her food.

She will need a consistent routine with plenty of environmental enrichment. Jasmine's home needs to be adult only with no visiting children, so if you are a fan of Sharpei then Jasmine is the girl for you.

If you would like any more information contact us on 01656 725219 or visit our website.

WHAT'S ON - News in brief

Table Top sale

CARTREFI Cymru will hold a table top sale at 2, Waterton Cross Business Park, South Road, Bridgend Industrial Estate (CF31 3UL) on Sunday, February 19 from 11am until 2pm.

It is £5 for table hire – please book in advance by calling the office on 01656 655606.

Admission free, everyone welcome – come along and browse for bargains.

Beetle Drive

IN aid of the All Saints' Church, Barry roof restoration fund a beetle drive will be held in the church hall on Friday, February 24.

This is an event for all the family and will commence at 7pm; tickets £4 for adults, £1 for children. There will also be a raffle on the evening. Come along and have some fun with us!

HALF-TERM ACTIVITIES FOR THE KIDS!

BRIDGEND Communities First has lots of activities to keep families busy during school half term break.

Enjoy learning the skills of 'upcyling' furniture and products and create 're-loved' items at Caerau Development Trust on Monday, February 20 from 2pm – 4pm.

Create sand 'art' bottles, make a bird feeding table and newspaper plant pots at Cornelly and District Development Trust on February 20 from 10am – 12pm and Carnegie House in Bridgend town centre on Tuesday, February 21 from 1.30pm – 3.30pm.

Have fun watching family puppet shows and making your own puppets to take home at Evanstown Community Centre on Tuesday, February 21 from 10.30am – 12.30pm, at Richard Price Centre in Llangeinor on Wednesday, February 22 from 10.30am – 12.30pm; Noddfa Community Project in Caerau on February 22 from 12pm – 4pm and St Bride's Memorial Hall in Bryncethin on Thursday, February 23 from 10.30am – 12.30pm.

Enjoy an 'out of this world' experience by visiting a planetarium to see the stars and watch a show at Brackla Tabernacle on Thursday, February 23 from 12pm – 4pm.

Supervised by playleaders, take part in arts and crafts and creative and messy play with outdoor play sessions for everyone aged 0 – 18 years. Organised in partnership with Groundwork Wales, from 2pm – 4pm, come along to Dimbath Avenue in Blackmill on February 20 and 23 and the grassed area at the rear of Sarn Lifelong Learning Centre on February 24.

There's lots do with Bridgend Communities First for half term! All half term activities are open to all those living in Bridgend Communities First postcode areas and advance booking is required by calling 01656 643514.

Children's Choices

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE

Playgroup has served Wenvoe for 47 years

Wenvoe Playgroup has been in operation for over 47 years, providing care for pre-school children at the Village Hall in Wenvoe.

We are a registered charity, managed by a parental committee to support our registration with CSSIW.

We care for all children from the age of two years and four months, offering wrap around care to all those children who attend Gwenfo Nursery School.

The group operates Monday and Wednesday from 9am until 3:15pm and Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 9am until 12:45pm, offering a safe, caring, stimulating environment where children may learn through play, with two halls and a large, safe, enclosed garden.

For more information, please visit *www.wenvoeplaygroup.co.uk*.

The statement of purpose will offer times, prices etc. Alternatively email: *wenvoeplaygroup@btinternet.com* or telephone 02920597494 during the above operational hours.

Wenvoe Playgroup
Providers of wrap around care with Gwenfo Nursery.
OPEN MON - FRI
9am - 12:45pm
(Mon & Wed until 3:15pm)
We provide care for all children from 2 years 4 months.
Please see our website for further information
wenvoeplaygroup.co.uk or phone 02920 597494 during opening hours.

Ogam Igam – the one-stop shop for your children's footwear

THE bright colours have arrived ready for Spring at Ogam Igam with exquisite styling for infants from Shoo Pom in orange, turquoise and metallic colours, including hi-tops with silver glitter.

There are patent greys from Clarks with their 'Little Weave' pre-walker shoe – the T-bar and buckle providing a good secure fit.

There are new styles too from Primigi, Geox and Start-rite – lots to choose from for children of all ages, and with school shoes, width fittings and professional fitters, Ogam Igam is the one-stop shop for children's footwear.

All your musical needs are met at Barry Music Shop

CUSTOMERS who have recently shopped at The Barry Music Shop will have seen quite a change at the end of 2016, as we have a NEW shop front, a new layout inside – while still offering the same high quality service as usual!

As well as stocking instruments such as guitars, ukuleles, keyboards, digital pianos, electronic drum kits, recorders, harmonicas, flutes, clarinets, saxophones and violins, we also stock virtually all the accessories for these instruments.

The Barry Music Shop also stocks a full range of amplifiers for guitars, headphones of all descriptions from budget to high end.

We also stock probably the best selection of audio connection leads and audio adaptors in south Wales! We can even make up bespoke audio leads for you in store!

As The Barry Music Shop started its 17th year of trading on February 1, 2017, we have decided to carry on with our January Sale – right through the month of February – where there are guitars on offer saving up to 50 per cent off normal prices.

Lots of other special offers at silly prices are on display in our window!

Now is an excellent time to visit The Barry Music Shop, with so many special sale offers now running!

THE Experts in Musical Instruments and Pro-Audio!
BMS
The Barry Music Shop
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AT the Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, children are given a platform to develop their communication skills, to stimulate their creative self and enjoy the freedom to experiment in a fun and nurturing environment.

The Academy's unique curriculum, which has helped thousands of children throughout the world, supports its students to develop their speech and language skills, boost their confidence and develop self-esteem and help to develop effective social interaction skills which will last a lifetime!

The Helen O'Grady Drama Academy, which was founded in 1979, operates worldwide and throughout the UK. The south Wales branch of the academy is one of the largest in the UK and all the children attending classes have a wonderful time; growing in confidence and building their self-esteem each week!

All students are invited to attend for a free trial session. The classes are very affordable and there are many payment options available.

For more information, contact the south Wales office on: 029 2046 2540 or email swales@helenogrady.co.uk. More information can also be found at: www.helenogradysouthwales.co.uk

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The very best for your pets at West Farm

West Farm is a well established small animal veterinary practice in the heart of Cowbridge.

The practice is owned by Stefano and Sonia Susanna after purchasing the clinic in January 2001.

Our assistant veterinary surgeon, Emma Powell, joined us in June 2016 coming from an exotic practice in the Midlands.

Emma has special interests in exotic birds and reptiles.

Everyone at our practice is committed to providing you with the very best healthcare for your pets.

We aim to provide the very best service which offers high-quality veterinary medicine and surgery to all our clients.

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Poundfield, Llantwit Major 01446 794972

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS PHOTO SKILLS OF PYLE AND PORTHCAWL CLUB MEMBERS

PYLE & Porthcawl Photographic Society was recently treated to two wonderful presentations on landscape and travel photography by Roy Carr and Heidi Stewart, both sharing their amazing images.

Also, the club recently held its 'Club Competition Two', which was split into two sections, prints and digital images, with a trophy for each. Members could enter two images in each competition.

Rob Mitchell judged both competitions, and not only awarded the points, but also provided an excellent critique on each image.

The winner of the Print Trophy was Richard Craze with 'New Flats Feature'. In second place was David Jones with 'Foggy, Foggy Night'.

Third place was shared between Richard Craze with 'The History Man' and Richard Jenkins with 'Watering the Flowers'.

The winner of the Digital Trophy was Philip Harrowing with 'My Old Friend'. Second was shared between two images, 'Hawk slow panning' and 'Wings', both by Geoffrey Baker.

Third place was shared between Heather Roper with 'Yesterday' and Richard Craze with 'Kendo'.

Congratulations to both Philip and Richard for winning the competitions and a big thank you to all participants for making it such an interesting and entertaining evening.

Our programme is available at *www.pyle-porthcawl-ps.co.uk*. We welcome new members of all ages and skill levels, so if you have an interest in photography, join us on Thursday evenings at 7:30 at St Clare's School, Newton. **GB**

ABOVE: Richard Craze receives the Print Trophy for 'New Flats Feature', which is pictured (right).

ABOVE: Rob Mitchell (left) presents the Digital Trophy to Philip Harrowing.

BELOW: 'My Old Friend' by Philip Harrowing.

BELOW: The image 'History Man' taken by Richard Craze.

ABOVE: 'Watering the Flowers' by Richard Jenkins.

ABOVE: 'Hawk slow panning' by Geoff Baker.

Ramblers enjoy Goodrich Castle

ON a blue-skied sunny morning, walkers joined Joy from Penarth and District Ramblers overlooking the ruined Goodrich Castle.

The castle was deliberately damaged during the English Civil War so it could no longer be used as a fortress after a battle between the Cavaliers and Roundheads, which the latter won.

Making their way to the church of St Giles with its tall spire, a journey by road, field and steps brought them to The Folly on Coppet Hill for morning coffee while enjoying brilliant views.

Descending to the banks of the Wye, the next stop was to view the monument to John Whitehead Warre, a 15-year-old tragically drowned in 1804, before passing a herd of Hereford cattle and calves and roe deer gracing the hilltop at The Green.

Moving on past the disused bridge which carried the Ross and Monmouth Railway over the Wye to the old Lydbrook Station that served Edison Swan Cable Works, lunch followed at Welsh Bicknor near St Margaret's Church, now in private ownership.

Continuing along the riverbank, very muddy undulating paths through Thomas Wood led them to the road at Kerne Bridge and Flanesford Priory, established as an Augustinian Priory in 1346 by Sir Richard Talbot, Lord of Goodrich, which was hit badly during the Black Death, and dissolved in 1537. It is now holiday accommodation, before the short journey back to Goodrich village.

Neath Valley

Robin and Pepper and four walkers journeyed to the Upper Neath Valley, parking just north of Ystradfellte by the River Llia and the surrounding mist soon melted away to produce a cold but dry day.

Tramping along the road before crossing onto Ystradfellte Common where a hunt was taking place, tracks led them on past craggy rocks and many sinkholes on their journey to Porth yr Ogof, where the River Mellte mysteriously disappears underground at the cave entrance.

Previous heavy rainfall had swollen the River Mellte and heading downstream and across a footbridge led them to the impressive fall of Sgwd Clun-gwyn or White Meadow Fall crashing into the valley below.

Heading across the valley to the gated bridge of Pont Rhyd-y-Cnau led them across the Nedd Fechan River for their lunch break.

Turning north beside the river on a muddy path, that posed underfoot problems in a few places before emerging into a field, the route led them onto the old Roman road of Sarn Helen.

Following a good track in a north easterly direction and joining the Beacons Way to re-cross the river brought them to Maen Madoc, a standing stone some 2.7 metres high with a Latin inscription indicating 'Dervacus, Son of Justus, he lies here'.

Making their way back to the car park well-deserved refreshments followed at the Red Lion in Penderyn on the journey home.

On February 19, meet at 9am at Cogan Leisure Centre for a 13-mile moderate walk taking in Craig Ogwr and the Ogmore Forest; contact John R on 07484 844 533.

To follow the group, log onto www.penarthramblers.wordpress.com or Facebook. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102. **JOY STRANGWARD**

Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email gemeditorial@tindlenews.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Remain supporter used selective statistics'

I DESPAIR when I read letters such as those from Ian Perry (GEM letters, February 9). Why? It is Mr Perry's lack of understanding of democracy within the UK, the selective use of statistics and the use of misleading statements?

Let us start with democracy. Eligible individuals can choose to register to vote and are then free to decide if they wish to participate in any particular election or referendum. We could have compulsory voting as in Australia but compulsion and democracy are not necessarily good bedfellows.

Turning to the selective use of statistics, as Mr Perry tells us 37 percent of people eligible to vote (in Wales) voted to leave the EU. True, but what is misleading is that Mr Perry omitted to tell us that the turnout for the referendum was 72 per cent. A huge turnout by modern standards.

By way of comparison, the turnout for the Welsh Assembly Referendum was 35 per cent, and 22 per cent of all eligible voters imposed their view that the Assembly should be given extra powers.

Perhaps Mr Parry will tell us that why he was not up in arms complaining about the lack of democracy then? Or perhaps democracy works when it suits his purpose?

Now lets turn to Mr Parry's many misleading statements. His claim that only wealthy families, politicians and political donors benefited from and supported Brexit is laughable.

I recall that most wealthy politicians and, indeed, wealthy business people (Gina Miller) springs to mind supported remain. In fact, most commentators and politicians have agreed that it was the working class (whatever that means) that voted Brexit.

Much of the business news that I have read of late, comes from American companies planning to invest in the UK – so it would be interesting to know which jobs will be taken back to the US. No doubt Mr Parry will enlighten us.

The single market is in itself nothing more than a trade protection block. The CAP which controls agricultural products in the single market has created for example, milk lakes, wine lakes, butter mountains, beef mountains and olive mountains.

The customs union of which Turkey is a member – yes, Turkey – has enabled European manufacturers to flood the UK market with components and finished goods. If you doubt it, look at the import/export figures between the UK and the EU.

The £100 million export of military technology to Turkey from the UK pales into insignificance when compared with EU export of arms to that same country. The figures run into billions of Euros.

Finally, it seems that the option of choosing any university within the EU is critical within Mr Perry's thinking. Around 550,000 students attend UK universities, and good luck to each and everyone of them. I wish each UK student studying in the EU (all 15,000 of them) every success, but is being shackled to the EU really worth the cost?

John A Turner,
Rhoose.

Saddened that hedgerows were 'destroyed'

ON Sunday I walked my dog at Sully beach and, having not been there for a while, I was shocked and saddened to see the destruction of the trees and hedgerows along the cliff edge and next to the Lavernock Caravan Park, which were home to lots of varieties of wildlife including rabbits and birds.

This destruction was to make way for a walkway along the cliff top, around the edge of the football/rugby field and back onto the road.

I'm totally in favour of making the coast accessible to all but what I'm not in favour of is that this walkway is a single track.

When this walkway is finished, should a pushchair and a wheelchair going in opposite directions meet along the path, there is not enough room for them to pass each other.

This would mean that either one of people pushing the chairs would have to walk backwards to where they came from until more room is made (the path is the same width for almost the entire length of the walkway) or lift and manoeuvre the chair on to the grass so the other people can get past.

Both of these are impossible and ridiculous (I was also told by another dog walker, that there is news of putting a fence up along the path, so we won't be able to access the grass).

What are the Vale Council thinking – do they not realise that some people are in wheelchairs, or that parents would like to take their children in pushchairs along this coastal path?

I'm normally in favour of the council, and I think they work hard for us, but this is one of their worst plans; so come on Vale Council, make this right – replant the trees and hedgerows, don't put up the fence, and make the path wider and accessible to all.

Mrs Amy Jackson,
Barry.

Jonathan urges: 'WEAR RED FOR WALES – AND FOR VELINDRE'

CANCER will affect one in two people born after 1960 – it's a simple statistic that drives home the battle we face against this terrible disease, and I am writing to ask for your support.

Velindre Cancer Centre's aim is for everybody in Wales to wear red on Friday, March 10, when Wales take on Ireland in the RBS Six Nations at Principality Stadium, Cardiff.

For this day only, Velindre will change from its traditional green colour to red in support of the Wales rugby team.

Taking part couldn't be simpler. Simply ask your staff, pupils, colleagues, friends, family etc to wear red on this day and donate a minimum of £1, then send your cheque made payable to: Velindre Fundraising, Velindre Cancer Centre, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL or donate online.

As well as the money you will raise from taking part, the publicity you will attract is also very important for us as we want as many people as possible to see your fundraising efforts.

Share your photographs, posts and videos on Twitter @Velindre; Instagram velindre_fundraising; Facebook VelindreFundraising; tagging us in, so everybody can see what an amazing thing you're doing for Velindre!

Be as creative as possible, as the best ones will be featured in the media and next year's campaign!

If you would like to take part, please complete a registration form from the website before March 10, so we can register you and announce your participation on social media.

Jonathan Davies OBE,
President, Velindre Cancer Centre.

Locals would like road to be a 'one-way street'

I WOULD like to update Dyfan Ward residents by responding to a letter printed in last week's GEM ('SPEED: Drivers need to be more considerate' February 9).

The volume and speed of traffic using Whitewell Road has been a concern for some time, and more so since completion of the nearby White Farm development.

When residents' cars are parked outside their homes, Whitewell Road effectively becomes a single lane road, with few passing places. After speaking to local residents about the inconsiderate and dangerous driving that occurs as a consequence, I as Dyfan councillor, carried out a door-to-door survey, the results of which gave a clear indication that residents would like to see their road become 'one-way'.

Following this, I contacted the council's highways department and requested that consideration be given to this idea. I have since been in constant dialogue and attended several meetings with the highways team, the managing director and the Leader of the Council; two of which have taken place on site so that local residents' concerns can be made clear.

As a result, highways engineers are this week (February 13) carrying out junction observations in peak periods for both the Whitewell Road/White Farm junction and the Whitewell Road/Coleridge Crescent junction.

They will then undertake a vehicle speed and volume survey for Whitewell Road in the first week of March, when the schools have returned after the half term break and traffic flows have returned to normal.

I will keep local residents updated on progress and I hope that this letter offers reassurance that the council is acting upon their concerns.

Councillor Anthony G Powell,
Dyfan ward, Vale Council.

Go to **The GEM** for the latest stories and breaking news... **glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/
Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01533/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: New hipped roof to rear annexe, addition of one roof light on the rear roof slope, new porch/wc extension to side with double gates
Location:/Lleoliad: Maltsters Cottage, Factory Road, Llanblethian, Cowbridge
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Llanblethian

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00036/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed 2 storey extension to enlarge garage and form additional bedroom to first floor
Location:/Lleoliad: Court Farm, Bonvilston
Conservation Area:/
Ardal Gadwraeth Bonvilston

Listed Building Consent/
Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01389/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed alterations, garage and extension
Location:/Lleoliad: The Lodge, Castle Upon Alun, St Bride's Major
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00110/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Works to existing building to include : extension to cover existing external area and removal of section of North wall internally
Location:/Lleoliad: 27, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00141/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig: Refurbishment of existing Tathan Hall to provide seven flats, construction of ten dwellings and associated works
Location:/Lleoliad: Tathan Hall, 6, Rectory Drive, St Athan
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/
Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2016/01438/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Proposed extensions, alterations and renovation to the existing buildings
Location:/Lleoliad: The Tower, Tower Hill, Penarth
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Nos 1-5 Tower Hill Avenue, Penarth, Grade II and No. 2 Coastguard Cottage, Marine Parade, Penarth, Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00042/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig: Excavation of existing embankment to install new retaining wall and concrete base for the provision of a new containerised biomass boiler and associated works. 1800mm high steel palisade fence with lockable gates, all painted dark green
Location:/Lleoliad: Docks Office, Subway Road, Barry
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting former Barry Dock Offices, Grade II*, pedestal and statue of David Davies of Llandinam, Grade II* and 6 lamp standards outside former Barry Dock Offices Grade II

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00087/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Works to existing building to include : extension to cover existing external area and removal of section of North wall internally
Location:/Lleoliad: 27, High Street, Cowbridge
Listed Building:/
Adeilad Rhestredig Affecting Mounting Block attached to 25 and 27 High Street, Cowbridge, Grade II, 27 High Street, Cowbridge, Grade II and 29 High Street, Cowbridge, Grade II

May affect a Public Right of Way/
Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

Application No:/
Rhif y cais: 2017/00026/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig: Agricultural building
Location:/Lleoliad: Land at The Lawns, Cwrt Yr Ala Road, Michaelston Le Pit

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 16 February, 2017

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT

Favourite ports and paddlers

BY BRIAN KEITCH

Local favourite **Cardiff Queen** *making a typically brisk departure from Penarth pier in the 1950s on a sunny afternoon.*

RECENTLY, I described the Bristol Channel tsunami of 1607, but here I want to recall how in later centuries thousands of people popped down to Penarth, Barry and Porthcawl for a cruise to Combe, Lynmouth, Minehead – or even further afield to Clovelly and Lundy.

Then again, there was also Weston super Mare.

A cruise on the paddle steamer *Cardiff Queen* or quasi-sister *Bristol Queen* was a must any summer. For an afternoon or evening out many people looked no further than Birnbeck pier.

Steamers usually stopped at Penarth pier on the outward journey from Cardiff (though it was possible to catch the train to Barry pier station on some sailings when the tide prevented a call at Penarth pier).

Among the earliest packets to call at Cardiff were the paddle steamers *Glamorgan* and *Bristol* (the Swansea to Bristol packets) in 1823. The only inconvenience was that the 'port' of Cardiff embarkation was Sully!

What were the fares? Sully (Cardiff) to Bristol, six shillings (30p) – aft cabin, four shillings (20p) – fore cabin and two shillings (10p). They ran three times a week.

For just a bit more you could, of course, travel to Swansea. The owners at the end of 1824 stated that the journey from Swansea to Bristol had averaged less than nine hours! When facilities were improved at the port of Cardiff proper, the Sully call was, not surprisingly, abruptly abandoned.

The only time steamers have come to Sully since is on one of the rare occasions *MV Balmoral* was – on a very high tide – chosen, for some reason, to sail past Sully Island on the landward side enabling passengers to wave at people on Swanbridge beach!

Penarth pier was built and opened in 1894, allowing excursion steamers to call, but since 1857 the little paddle steamers *Kate* (1), *Kate* (2), *Iona,* and a small screw vessel *La Belle Marie had* chugged back and forth when the tide allowed.

The construction of a pedestrian tunnel under the Afon Elai in 1899 caused the old ferry to fade away in October 1903 after 46 years of service. No doubt regular rail services from Penarth – opened in 1878, Cogan in 1888, plus Soloman Andrew's omnibuses – didn't help.

Our photograph from yesteryear (above) sees local favourite *Cardiff Queen* making a typically brisk departure from Penarth pier in the 1950s on a sunny afternoon – probably bound for Weston or Minehead.

Built at Fairfield's yard on the Clyde in 1947, *Cardiff Queen* was destined to be the last sea-going paddle steamer ever built (*PS Waverley* was launched earlier and the largely rebuilt *PS Medway Queen* is waiting re-entry to service – but was built in 1924 by Ailsa shipbuilding at Troon).

Cardiff Queen and her quasi-sister *Bristol Queen* operated for scarcely 20 years before being scrapped. In addition to her Bristol Channel duties, *Cardiff Queen* also put in two years' service on the south coast of England in 1952 and 1953. For the record *Cardiff Queen* could carry in excess of 1,000 passengers and could skip along at 18 knots at a push!

Cardiff Queen had a number of 'firsts'. The Second World War claimed no fewer than seven of the 11 steamers of the White Funnel fleet, three during the evacuation at Dunkirk alone with the result that new steamers were built – the two 'queens' – Bristol in 1946 and Cardiff in 1947. The same conflict saw the closure of some piers.

Among *Cardiff Queen*'s 'firsts' was a call by a passenger ship at Ventnor Pier, Isle of Wight after the war in 1953. She was to call at Lynmouth in 1954 re-opening the port of call after the disastrous floods there in 1952.

A few days later she re-opened the Bideford sailings after a gap of 30 years, also the same year saw the ship visit Tenby. In 1955 she re-opened sailings to Milford Haven and was the first steamer to call at Mumbles in 1956 after the pier was rebuilt.

Cardiff Queen made her final sailing to Lundy on September 21, 1966 with 400 passengers, never to sail again. Efforts to convert the ship into a nightclub on the River Usk, Newport, failed to materialise and she was scrapped upriver at Cashmore's yard in 1968.

Tommy needs a quiet home

Cats Protection, Pant Hirwaun, Bryncethin, Bridgend CF32 9UJ
Tel: 01656 726621 • Fax: 01656 722012
Email: bridgend.manager@cats.org.uk

MY name is Tommy, I'm currently the eldest cat at 15 years of age at the Cats Protection Bridgend Adoption Centre, and staff say I look good for my age!

I ended up in the centre when my owner went into care and could no longer care for me.

Being an elderly chap, I really need a quiet home where I can relax and live out my twilight years in peace. If you think you have the right home, please come and visit me.

Bridge results

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan bridge club for February 11:

1st Vida Halford & Glyn Williams 59.26%, 2nd John Raymond & Alan Lewis 56.94%, 3rd Phil Felman & Tony Disley 56.02%.

LE

Coaching delivered in the Welsh language

SPORT students from Cardiff and Vale College are set to share their coaching expertise through the medium of Welsh following special training from the Urdd.

Eight sports learners have taken part in the Urdd's specialist 'Level 2 Sport Leaders Award' and now need to provide 10 hours of coaching in Welsh to become fully qualified.

All of the learners have found coaching opportunities and complete their hours in Welsh medium primary schools and during rugby and hockey competitions with the Urdd.

Once qualified, the eight students will be able to coach in Welsh with the Urdd at Welsh medium schools, after school clubs, holiday camps, galas and competitions.

Urdd sports development officer, Gareth East, said: "It was great working with Cardiff and Vale College and lovely to see a lot of good coaches in the college. Everyone fully participated in every aspect of the qualification and to a very good standard. We look forward to the students coaching with us in the future."

The Urdd aims to provide opportunities for children and young people to develop personal and social skills through the medium of Welsh.

The Level 2 Sport Leaders Award is a nationally recognised practical qualification that enables learners to lead groups of people in sport or activities in Welsh. It teaches generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport.

Level 3 public services student, 18-year-old Kia Sparkes, said: "We are very grateful to the Urdd for giving us the opportunity to gain an extra qualification which will help us with our employment prospects as well as giving us experience in the coaching world. Being able to use and practise our Welsh is a great help and has really boosted our confidence to keep using the language."

CAVC Welsh Curriculum co-ordinator Nicola Buttle explained: "Establishing such strong links with the Urdd has created an abundance of Welsh medium opportunities for our learners. It has been hugely beneficial in many ways.

"It supports our bilingual ethos and Welsh medium provision within sport at CAVC, provides practical coaching sessions through the medium of Welsh across Cardiff and the Vale and also raises awareness among our learners of how advantageous the Welsh language and bilingualism is within the sporting world."

CB

Food hygiene ratings show up the Vale

A NEW study has revealed which council areas have the best and worst food hygiene ratings at pubs, bars and clubs.

The Food Standards Agency website holds the data from inspections carried out by each local authority under the Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme. Every business that serves pub food is awarded with a hygiene rating between 0 (urgent improvement necessary) and 5 (very good).

Out of a total of 356 council areas in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (Scotland is subject to a different rating system), the Vale of Glamorgan had the fifth highest percentage of pubs and bars with a poor rating of 0, 1 or 2; with 17 per cent of its 135 rated businesses requiring improvement.

Newham was the worst ranked council district, with 19.2 per cent of businesses rated 2 or below, whereas Lisburn and Castlereagh City was the best, with 100 per cent scoring 4 or 5.

Linda Firth, a director at the company LoveMyVouchers.co.uk, said: "The study aimed to raise awareness about the ratings. There is nothing better than a good pub lunch, but as budgets tighten, food hygiene standards could become increasingly important for diners choosing where to spend their money."

Premises that serve food in Wales and Northern Ireland are now obliged to clearly display the rating that they receive under the scheme, with England to follow suit from 2019.

Make every daffodil count for Marie Curie

MARIE CURIE launched their annual Daffodil Appeal at the Senedd on Wednesday, February 8.

The appeal is now in its 31st year, and South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies joined forces with senior nurse Judith Thursfield and rapid response team members Helen Wilson and Donna Jarvis to encourage Vale residents to support the campaign.

Mr Davies has encouraged local residents to help the charity by wearing a Marie Curie daffodil pin – available from Superdrug, Spar and Savers stores across the Vale.

He pointed out that money raised would be of great benefit to the charity's Cardiff and Vale Hospice – located in Penarth.

Mr Davies said: "It is a pleasure to see the great daffodil appeal is still going after 31 years and I'd encourage all Vale residents to support it."

Simon Jones, head of policy and public affairs for Marie Curie Wales, said: "To have the support of Andrew RT Davies makes a huge difference to Marie Curie.

"With his help we are able to raise awareness about what we do and reach more people who need us.

"Our services rely on charitable donations, so I'd like to express a heartfelt thank you to everyone who gives a donation and wears a daffodil pin this February and March.

"The money raised from the Great Daffodil Appeal will help Marie Curie Nurses provide care and support to people living with a terminal illness, and their loved ones, in homes across Wales, as well as in the charity's Cardiff and Vale Hospice in Penarth."

PENARTH HOCKEY CLUB ROUND-UP

AS the 2016-17 season heads into its final weeks, Penarth Hockey Club continues to push for GoCrea8 League promotion on three fronts, with the first XI chasing a second straight league title having taken over at the top of Conference North less than a year after dominating De Cymru & The Marches 1.

SWINDON 1, PENARTH 2

Penarth travelled to promotion rival Swindon for a game re-arranged after the first attempt to play was denied by a frozen pitch at the end of January.

With little to divide the top teams in Conference North, this was arguably both teams' biggest game of the season to date, as Penarth looked to move clear at the top of the table and Swindon sought to quickly reignite their bid after losing to second-placed Robinsons the previous day.

On a bitterly cold morning, Penarth seemed to struggle with both the conditions and early start as Swindon made the better of the initial exchanges. Playing the ball around sharply, some clever first time passes left Penarth chasing shadows, and the home side deservedly took the lead after 10 minutes, breaking down Penarth's right and firing the ball in to the 'D' to find an unmarked attacker to sweep home and give goalkeeper Adam Putt no chance.

The early setback only served to stoke the Bears' fire, and the visitors finally started to warm to the challenge set by their rivals.

Vice-captain Chris Baker began to grow more and more into the game and, picking the ball up in the final third, drove into the Swindon area to fire a warning shot just wide on his reverse stick.

The hosts failed to take heed and continued to leave Baker far to much time and space and, this time, he made them pay. Picking the ball up in midfield and peeling strongly into the 'D', Baker's goal-bound effort was converted by Tim Urlings, whose deft touch deflected the ball high into the net to level the scores before half-time.

Tactical changes by player-coach Ben Croxall tweaked the formation during then interval and, despite giving Baker man-marking duties against Swindon's play-maker, allowed Penarth to take more control in the second half.

Although Swindon continued to pass the ball around nicely, possession was largely in their own half, with very little penetration. Penarth, in contrast, were happy without the ball, but enjoyed greater field territory and their more direct approach in possession created the better moments.

The Bears had one more bit of magic up their sleeve and a direct feed into the 'D' found Urlings, who produced another sublime touch to deflect the ball under his right shoulder and into the bottom corner to draw jubilant celebrations from the visitors.

With little time left for Swindon to hit back, Penarth saw out the game comfortably, keeping hold of the ball and pinning the home side deep in their own half to claim a memorable win and take sole possession of top spot in the division, as well as all but eliminating Swindon's promotion hopes.

PENARTH 10, WHITCHURCH A 1

Prior to their trip to Wiltshire, Penarth hosted Whitchurch at Stanwell School, knowing that they could not afford to take their local rivals lightly, but also well aware that goal difference could be key in a closely-fought Conference North title battle.

Whitchurch arrived with a team full of youth, but Penarth's superior experience quickly won the day – and in ruthless fashion. With barely five minutes played, the tie was effectively over after three rapid-fire goals left the visitors shel shocked.

The opening brace came in similar fashion, with captain Tom Haran first finding David Joyce and then Chris Baker at the back post to score with Penarth's first two attacks, before Laith El-Khatib added the third with an unsaveable drag flick high to the keepers right.

Penarth were now completely dominant in every department, and fired home another four before the half was out. The same formula as the opener accounted for Joyce's second, with Haran again finding the striker unmarked at the back post to sweep home first time.

Tim Urlings was next on the scoresheet with perhaps the pick of the goals as, put through on goal, he showed great composure in waiting for the keeper to go to ground before producing the deftest of touches into the net and continue his march up the goalscoring charts.

El-Khatib netted a second after finding time in the 'D' to smash in Penarth's sixth, before Andy Willemite made it seven at the break with a first time touch.

With the game won and half an eye firmly on the Swindon tie, Penarth took their foot off the gas in the second period, but still managed to net three further goals, with Joyce rounding out his hat-trick before Aaron Fulton-Brown got forward from right back to get in on the act and Baker ensured double figures with his second of the day.

The only blemish on otherwise scintillating display came via an unfortunate deflection on a Whitchurch shot that was initially going wide, which left Penarth 'keeper Simon Comfort no chance of holding on to a clean sheet as the home side romped to their biggest win of the season.

GWENT A 2, PENARTH A 10

After a tough loss to runaway De Cymru 1 leaders Cardiff University, it was vital that the second XI got their season back on track, and a trip to the newly laid pitch at Cwmbran Stadium to face mid-table Gwent proved just the tonic.

Having gained control of the game, the Bears began to exert more and more pressure on the Gwent defence and quickly identified attacking midfielder Phil Lane as their best route to success.

Able to create chances almost at will, the veteran opened the scoring in decisive fashion by firing past the hapless Gwent keeper, but the home side refused to capitulate, and hit back quickly, making the most of miscommunication in the Penarth defence to give Putt no chance with a first-time shot into the roof of the net.

The goal was a wake-up call for the men in green, forcing them to focus on the task at hand. With Gwent buoyed by the equaliser and pushing for more, there were gaps to be exploited, and Penarth did just that repeatedly as the frigid afternoon went on.

The impressive Keegan Hoare created the next scoring opportunity by winning a penalty corner after making a break down the left channel.

Having failed to convert any of the twelve such opportunities they earned against Cardiff University the previous week, however, Penarth called up veteran Dave Stevens to provide a more direct approach to the set-piece, and he responded with a perfectly dispatched strike just below the backboard to give the visitors the lead.

The Bears now held a clear upper hand, and quickly added to their advantage, winning another penalty corner via Richard Baker. This time, Stevens' initial shot was repelled by a good save from the young Gwent 'keeper, but the rebound fell kindly for James Kidby and he clinically slotted the ball back into the bottom corner.

Hitting back so decisively after Gwent felt they had got themselves back into the game appeared to take the wind out of the home team's sails and, while they saw their hosts' play gradually unravel, the Bears dominated the rest of the first half, passing the ball with the fluency which sees them well and truly in the De Cymru 1 promotion hunt.

With some superb movement from the forward line, Lane was granted more than enough space to do what he does best, eventually completing up a first half hat-trick to send Penarth into the break with a comfortable 5-1 lead.

The second half continued in much the same vein, with the Bears quick to exploit every slip by the Gwent defence, while tightening up at the back to give Putt a relatively quiet 35 minutes.

Although the home side was allowed to double their tally with just minutes remaining on the clock, the damage had already been done at the other end, as Penarth produced another five-goal blast to put the result beyond doubt.

Continuing to score at will, the Vale side matched their first XI counterparts by reaching double figures before the final whistle, with Lane increasing his contribution to the end-of-season beer kitty with another hat-trick, interspersed with a first club goal for the influential Hoare and a second for the predatory Kidby.

With several second XI regulars missing, the game also provided an opportunity for some of the younger club members to step up and show what they could do, and Hoare's positive showing was mirrored by both Sam Salisbury, who continued to excel in the unfamiliar-to-him left back role, and 14-year old Tom Griffiths who, despite not being able to to repeat the goal he registered on his second XI debut against Swansea City, showed that he will be one to watch as he climbs the ranks in coming years.

PENARTH C 1, PENARTH B 2

While the two senior sides were in action against other clubs, the third and fourth XIs engaged in the third of their four De Cymru 3 meetings, this time with the 'C-Siders' as the designated home team.

The season's two previous meetings had resulted in multiple-goal victories for the third XI, but the fourths are a much improved side and proved as much as they ran their clubmates close in episode three of Penarth's own 'El Clasico'

After 70 hard-fought minutes, the thirds sneaked a 2-1 win they just about deserved from a relatively level contest, but had to dig deep to see off the development team, having been pegged at a goal apiece at the interval.

A rare strike for Graeme Jones accounted for the 'C-siders' score, but a brace from skipper Dave Watkins ensured that the 3third XI maintained their push for promotion at the end of the season.

All four Penarth teams are in action again this weekend, with the first XI looking to keep up their title bid away at Chippenham, while the second XI face another must-win game for their promotion campaign, this time against Cardiff & Met 'E' at Stanwell (2pm start). The thirds follow on at home against Swansea City (3.30pm start) as the fourth XI head west to tackle De Cymru 3 leaders Swansea University.

CL

The Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

AFTER a couple of weeks off from action in the Vale due to the inclement weather, football returned with focus on the divisional cups.

The historic ASRS Cup of the Premier Division, dating back over 100 years saw one first round tie competed and three more quarter-final ties decided.

Runaway league leaders Vale United edged past Penarth Town in a rearranged first round match 1-0 with Jay Tominey notching his 18th goal of the campaign. This sets United up for a quarter-final against Barry Athletic this coming weekend.

In the three quarter finals played this past weekend St Athan advanced past Island Marine 4-2 with Josh Morgan scoring all four, the youngster hitting 20 goals this term.

Rhoose eased through 6-1 against Tynewydd while Cowbridge Town went through 4-0 against Masons Moving Group to set up a semi-final against Rhoose.

In the Supporters Cup, contested by Division One teams, goals from Dan Morgan, Linford Harris and Ryan Hales, saw Barry Athletic B through 3-1 against Dockers.

SP Billy cruised into the semi finals 7-0 against Glenbrook while FC Pumas pipped Cogan 1-0.

Division Two teams compete for the Dockers Cup, Island Marine B needed extra-time but came through 4-2 against high-flying Penarth B in a very impressive result.

Rhoose B edged out Pumas B 2-1, while league leaders Barry Saints advanced 5-0 against Barry Albion and Cadoxton Imps dispatched BV to go through to the semi-finals.

Only one league game was played this weekend, that was in Division One where Barry Belgrade were victorious 3-1 against Cardiff Airport B to close the gap on leaders Barry Athletic B to six points, but Belgrade have two games in hand.

This week sees the return of league action; the games of the day in each division see Rhoose host Cowbridge in the Premier Division, Cogan play Sully in Division One and Penarth B travel to play Barry Albion.

In the SWFA Intermediate Cup, the last remaining Vale league club, St Athan, host the only other Vale-based team in the competition, Cardiff Airport, now of the SWFA Alliance League. St Athan finished runners-up to Vale League champions Cardiff Airport last season.

HD

Barry and District Ladies Skittle league

LATEST results for the Barry and District Ladies Skittle League for week commencing January 30 are as follows:

First division: Bakers Dozen (M Lewis 30) 282, Pila Palas (P Webb 27) 262; Family and Friends (J Phillips, J Crompton 23) 211, Special Angels (L Mountford 28) 207; Space Finders (P Cleaver 32) 299, Barry Stars (D James, S Phillips 36) 359; Family Affair (S Johyn 28) 250, Coppers (J Hartnell 25) 253; Bob by's Girls (G Toogood 26) 245, Colcot Ladies (D Mansbridge 27) 240; Cigar Ladies (Aimee McCarthy 33) 287, Allsorts (C Navell 34) 314.

Second division: Breakaway (V Martin 35) 295, Castle Bandits (M Stevens 31) 284; After Eights (D Goddard 27) 257, Roller Coaster (M Pratt 28) 271; Cad Con Fillies (T Clements 26) 229, Witchill Weebies (S Hillier 30) 220; Clickies (A Batt 31) 253, Witchill Widows (L Spyrou 35) 306; Fallen Angels (C Stephens 31) 262, Rhoose Starlight (D Stradling 30) 234; Castaways (K Billings 31) 269, Airways Angels (A Crook 32) 264; SV Lights (D Masterman 30) 249, Merry Makers (A Hawkins 29) 207.

Third division: Hill Billies (E Anzani 35) 314, Little Devils (G Bowen 34) 317; Rugby Tirers (E Nicholaou 26) 219, Vixens (D Marks 28) 255; Rebels (L Spurr 26) 234, Westenders (J Somers, M Condon, B Goddard 26) 256; La Belles (J Williams 32) 335, Challengers (M Griffiths, B Griffiths 32) 345; Witches (C Kemp 27) 217, Uptown Girls (L Cosslett 30) 251; Etcetera (C Stillman 28) 258, Twilights (M Harding, A Campbell 26) 241.

Fourth division: Persuaders (C Thomas, F Organ 23) 197, Nite Outers (L Newman 21) 156; Off The Rails (L McCormack 33) 242, Optimists (L Gerknardt 25) 207; Liberals (S Allen 23) 231, Aristocats (C Chatwell 26) 253; Witchill Wanderers (S Reynolds 33) 210, Boozy Birds (J Mills 30) 277; Hell Raisers (M Davies, J Corrigan 25) 228, Socialites (J Fumis 26) 216.

On and Off The Turf WITH BRIAN LEE

EVAN WILLIAMS' five-year-old Skewiff racing for the first time in public landed the closing Mares' Standard Open National Hunt Flat Race (Division 2) at Huntingdon last Thursday.

Partnered by Adam Wedge Skewiff, an 8-1 chance, got home by a head from the favourite Majestic Moll with Mary Eleanor a further short head away in third place.

DEBRA'S BIG RACE WIN

Racehorse trainer Debra Hamer who hails from the Vale and who trains her horses from her yard in Carmarthen had plenty to smile about after her seven-year-old ToBeFair landed the Betfair Cash Out Handicap Hurdle in fine style at Newbury last Saturday under regular jockey Trevor Whelan.

Since she has had the plucky ToBeFair it won its first two starts at Worcester before scoring at Chepstow, Ffos Las, Chepstow again then Warwick before picking up the £12, 512 Newbury prize.

Not many horses go on to win seven races on the trot so to speak and the Cheltenham National Hunt Festival could be next for ToBeFair owned by the Down The Quay Club Syndicate a happy band of west Wales point-to-point stalwarts.

CHEPSTOW RACECOURSE SPONSORS POINT-TO-POINTS

Chepstow Racecourse, home of the Welsh Grand National, is sponsoring five point-to-points in its heartland of south Wales and along the M4/M5 corridor.

These include the Curre & Llangibby fixture at Howick near Chepstow on February 19, the Brecon & Talybont at Llanfrynach on March 4 and the Monmouthshire at Llanvapley on April 1.

Phil Bell, executive director, said: "Chepstow draws on a huge enthusiasm for jump racing in south Wales and surrounding counties, manifesting itself in attendances at some of our marquee fixtures like the Coral Welsh Grand National. Our Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunter Chase on April 28 is the most valuable Hunter Chase in Wales and draws terrific support from the whole south west too."

"We're delighted to be supporting the sport that supports us."

David Brace OBE and MD of Dunraven Group, added: "We're very proud of the Dunraven Bowl at Chepstow and see an opportunity to build this fixture into a destination event for the point-to-point community."

EVAN AGAIN

Evan David from Llanharan, who has been in good form this season, chalked up another winner when making all the running on Andrew Pennock's Torran Na Dtonn in the hunt members' race at the Cambridge University Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Cottenham last Saturday.

CURRE & LLANGIBBY RACES

The first of the two Curre & Llangibby Hunt Point-To-Point fixtures takes place at Howick, near Chepstow, on Sunday (February 19) and a number horses and riders from the Vale are expected to take part.

Racing gets under way with the members' race at 12 noon.

A BRACE FOR BRACE

David Brace, who runs the Dunraven Stud at Pyle near Bridgend, took the first two races at the Albrighton & Woodland Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases at Chaddesley Corbett on Sunday.

His Doc Cody took the open maiden event and his Colorado Doc won the restricted. Both are six-year-olds and both are by his stallion Dr Massini.

Leading Welsh rider Bradley Gibbs, who recently chalked-up his 100th winner, rode both horses.

Another Welsh rider who had a double on Sunday was Lorcan Williams who at the Vine and Craven meeting at Barbary Castle took the restricted on Apple's Queen and the novice riders' race on Join Together.

** You can e-mail your news or views to brianlee4@virginmedia.com*

MP and AM join Vale Veterans for breakfast

THE Vale's first 'Veteran's Breakfast' took place recently, with more than 70 former servicemen and their spouses meeting in the Sully Sports & Social Club.

Organised in the Vale by Tony Fitzpatrick, Veterans Breakfast Clubs have sprung up across the UK to provide an opportunity for former Armed Forces personnel to socialise over a big breakfast.

The breakfasts are also intended to present an opportunity to seek support, with charities offering services such as advice relating to further education, housing, employment and mental health.

Vale MP Alun Cairns visited the launch of the local club recently, meeting veterans and charity workers.

He said: "The Veterans Breakfast is a fantastic idea. Tony Fitzpatrick deserves great praise for ensuring that so many veterans were aware of, and were able to attend, the launch of the club.

"There was a very positive atmosphere in Sully, which I am sure will continue as the club grows and supports yet more servicemen over the coming months and years."

The launch was also attended by the Vale's AM, Jane Hutt, along with representatives of charities, including Woody's Lodge, which runs at *HMS Cambria* with the backing of 22 support agencies.

With more than 12,000 veterans living in the Vale, a range of support networks and services was needed, she said.

The Vale of Glamorgan Veterans Breakfast Club is open to serving and former members of HM Armed Forces and their families. It meets at 9am every Saturday at the Sully Sports & Social Club.

RHS Flower Show returns to Cardiff

THE annually anticipated floral spectacular, RHS Flower Show Cardiff will return to the city this April, embracing Wales' Year of Legends with a host of themed gardens and features to spark the imagination.

The Flower Show – which is organised by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) in partnership with Cardiff Council – will this year take place from April 7 to 9, and will once again fill the beautiful Bute Park with all things floral.

Encouraging visitors to embrace this year's magical, mystical theme – and inspiring showgoers to experience the rich history of Welsh legends and their connection to the surrounding landscape – featured show gardens will include Bridgend College's 'Y Meudwyaeth', inspired by the Blackfriars monastic site and heritage, as well as Chris Myers' homage to Blodeuwedd, a mythical woman made from flowers who, legend has it, was turned into an owl as punishment for trying to murder her husband.

Macmillan Cancer Support will return to the show with a contemplative garden focusing on the theme of 'legacy', and gardener Daniel Bodin will create a modern garden with a historical twist to encapsulate Welsh heritage and traditions.

Two Cardiff-based charities – Grow Cardiff and The Dusty Shed – will work together on a display made completely by novice gardeners, containing delicious edibles which support and attract wildlife.

In tune with the 'myths and legends theme', the garden will feature a castle and peasant's cottage made from upcycled pallets and rubbish.

Other features will include giant wicker bug sculptures, the ever-popular schools' wheelbarrow competition, demonstrations and live workshops, bushcraft and live animals.

For more information or to buy advance tickets for the RHS Flower Show Cardiff visit www.rhs.org.uk/cardiff.

Telling the story of Penarth Docks

FROM Neolithic times to the present day, Penarth Docks has a fascinating story, and well known historian Alan Thorne will present two talks in the Parish Hall, Albert Road, Penarth tonight Thursday, February 16, and then on Thursday, February 23 (both at 7pm) entitled *'The History of Penarth Dock, its site and surrounds'*.

The first talk will cover the period from the Neolithic up to the 19th century, including references to the Romans, Celtic Saints, Vikings, Normans, pirates, smugglers, and a galaxy of famous engineers – eg Isambard Kingdom Brunel, Robert Stephenson, Thomas Telford and more.

The second talk will cover the friction between the Butes and the Windsors, leading to the building and opening of the Ely tidal harbour and then the dock.

Among events and people to be discussed will be the dock extension, the river Ely and the dock subway.

Trade figures, dock buildings, including the now demolished Marine Hotel, will be covered as will numerous fatal industrial accidents and deaths as well as one death by shooting and stabbing.

Of equal interest will be the armada of famous vessels that used the dock, including 'windjammers', the *Cutty Sark*, *Elissa*, *Great Britain* and numerous *Bay Maidens*.

The talk will also include numerous famous and infamous men including Captains Joseph Conrad and Edward Tupper.

The talk will close with the Depression, the dock closure of 1936, its re-opening, the American take-over, the post-war 'mothball fleet', and steady decline leading to the final closure of l963.

The talks have been arranged by the Friends of St Augustine's.

Speaking about the talks, one of the committee commented: "This is a rare treat – Alan has a wealth of knowledge on Penarth, and having had a taste of some of the anecdotes, I know the talks will not only be informative (as usual), but also surprising!"

Entry on the door: one talk £5, both talks £8 (£4 or £7 for Friends of St Augustine's). More information at: www.friendsofstaugustines.org or Facebook 'alan on the docks'.

For further information call John Guilfoyle on 02920 706309 or Tricia Griffiths 02920 707828.

VALE TRANSPORT

ARE you a resident in the Vale who finds it difficult to access public transport, or are disabled?

Voluntary Emergency Transport Services (VEST) operate door to door services such as a Saturday shopper to Morrisons, shopping in Cardiff and more.

To find out more, register with VEST by filling in a simple form.

An information session will be held at Age Connects Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry on Tuesday, February 14 from 10am to 12 noon. No appointment is needed; just come along and have a chat. Contact 01446 732385.

homes4u HOTLINE 01446 700111

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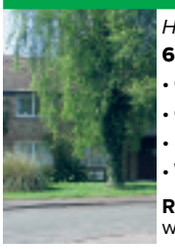

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COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL

Glanmor Crescent, Barry - £169,950
Three bedroom semi detached within a generous plot. Entrance hallway. Living room. Kitchen/dining room. First floor bathroom. UPVC DG. GCH. Gardens to front and rear. Off road parking. EPC rating: C. NO CHAIN.

Earl Crescent, Barry - £139,950
Three bedroom end link property. Entrance porch. Open plan living room. Kitchen. Bathroom with separate w/c. Enclosed rear garden. Property benefiting from UPVC DG and GCH. EPC rating: E. NO CHAIN.

Southesk Place, Barry - £220,000
Three bedroom semi detached property in a cul de sac location. Hallway, downstairs w/c. Lounge, dining room. Fitted kitchen, shower room. UPVC DG. GCH. Forecourt and south facing rear garden. (Viewing highly recommended).

Lakeside, The Knap, Barry - £425,000
Four bedroom semi detached. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge/dining room. Conservatory. Kitchen/breakfast room. Family bathroom. UPVC DG and GCH. Garden to front and rear. Small driveway/secure carport. NO CHAIN.

Coronation Street, Barry - £112,950
Two bedroom mid terrace property. Entrance hallway. Two reception rooms. Extended kitchen/dining room. Bathroom to first floor. Enclosed, south facing garden. EPC rating: C.

Vere Street, Barry - £125,000
Property divided into three flats. Communal hallway. One bedroom ground floor flat with rear garden. Two bedroom first floor flat. One bedroom second floor flat. UPVC DG. GCH. EPC rating: D. Ideal investment.

Tynewydd Road, Barry - £214,950
Three bedroom semi detached. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge. Dining room. Sitting room. Kitchen. Family bathroom to first floor. Enclosed rear garden. GCH. Viewing highly recommended.

Fontygary Road, Rhoose - £249,950
Three double bedroom semi. Lounge. Dining room. Fitted kitchen/breakfast room. Study. Downstairs cloakroom. Bathroom and separate w/c. UPVC DG. GCH. Gardens to front and rear. Large driveway. Garage. No chain.

Whitehouse, The Knap, Barry - £349,000
Two bedroom mid link residence on the edge of The Old Harbour. Entrance hallway. Living room. Kitchen. Cloakroom. Family bathroom and en suite. UPVC DG. GCH. Enclosed rear garden. Panoramic views. EPC rating: C.

Brookfield Avenue, Barry - £179,950
Two bedroom semi detached bungalow. Entrance porch. Living room. Kitchen/dining room. Utility room. Family bathroom and separate cloakroom. Enclosed gardens to front and rear. UPVC DG. GCH. Driveway/garage. EPC rating: D.

Court Road, Barry - £125,000
Four bedroom, bay fronted property. Entrance porch. Hallway. Lounge/sitting room. Dining room. Kitchen/breakfast room. Ground floor shower room. First floor bathroom. Some DG. GCH. Forecourt and garden. Garage. NO CHAIN.

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NEW- Wenvoe Terrace, Barry - £450 Per CM
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NEW- Cae Leon , Barry - £775 Per CM
Two bedroom semi-detached bungalow. Unfurnished. Two reception rooms. Fitted kitchen with oven and hob. Bathroom with shower. Driveway and garage. Enclosed rear garden. Gas central heating. Spacious accommodation. Cul-de-sac location.

NEW - Lewis Street, Barry - £650 Per CM
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Family Notices

BAKER
Thelma

Peacefully on February 3rd at Springbank Nursing Home, Barry, Thelma formerly of Bell Street, Barry. Beloved mum and nanna to Glenys, Arthur, Jason, Matthew, Sian, Ceri, Rowland, Nigel and Andrew.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Thursday, February 23rd at 2pm, followed by cremation at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 3pm. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home if desired.

WINSTONE
Peter Kenneth

Peacefully at Velindre Hospital, aged 74 years, on Wednesday, 8 February 2017. Adored husband of Diane for almost 50 years. Beloved father to Andrew and partner Corita. Grandfather to Thomas, Elizabeth and Eleanor and great grandfather to Logan. Uncle to his girls Charlene and Rachel.

He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at Thomas Brothers Funeral Home until his funeral at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, 20 February at 2.15pm. Donations, if desired, to Velindre Hospital.

COLLINGS
Stephen Grant

Peacefully on the 11th February 2017 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Stephen of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of Lynne and loving father of Samantha and Christopher, a much loved 'Pops' of Isla.

He will be missed by friends and family.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the service on Friday, 24th February in Coychurch Crematorium at 3.15pm.

WHITLOW
Gerald Francis (Jerry)

Suddenly on the 2nd February 2017 at the University Hospital Wales, Jerry, aged 72; formally of Ffordd Elin, Barry. A beloved dad of Sharon and father-in-law of Rob. A much loved grandfather and great grandfather to all his grandchildren. An adored brother of Peter and a loved uncle to Adrian.

Jerry will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Resting at A J Stone & William Ham Funeral Home, 1a Neville Street, Canton, Cardiff, CF11 6LP until his service on Wednesday, 22nd February 2017 at 1pm at St Helen's Roman Catholic Church, Barry, followed by internment at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery at 2pm.

EVANS
Kenneth Idris (Ken)

Sadly passed away on 1st February 2017, aged 78. Beloved brother to Joan Picton, brother-in-law to Bill, uncle to Simon, Robert and the late Jeffrey and father to the late David.

He will be sadly missed.

WRIGHT
Margaret Sarah
(Née Bowles) ***Peggy***

Suddenly but peacefully on 12th February at College Fields Nursing Home, Barry - Peggy, who dearly loved her late husband Bill, her children Catherine, Helen and Annette, son-in-laws Sean and Alan. Also, cherished nan and great nan to all her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Peggy will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting at The Vale Funeral Service 181 Court Road, Barry until her service at St John Methodist Church, Barry Island on Wednesday, 1st March at 1.45pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Dementia UK in memory of Peggy.

STRADLING
Connie (Formerly Rees)

Peacefully, on February 12 at Bethel House, Dinas Powys, Connie, aged 94, formerly of Rhoose. Much loved and sadly missed by all her family.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Thursday, February 23, service and cremation 11am at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry. No flowers by request.

GRIFFITHS
Brian

Died peacefully at home in Llantwit Major, aged 87. Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon.

Funeral to be held at Bethesda'r Fro, Boverton on Tuesday, February 21 at 11am, followed by private cremation. No flowers by request.

KIDBY
Elizabeth (Betty)

Peacefully on 6th February at the University Hospital of Wales, Betty, aged 87 years, of Barry. Beloved wife of the late Eddie, dearly loved mum to Neil and Jackie, mother-in-law to Marina and Lee. A devoted grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the funeral home chapel on Wednesday, 22nd February at 10am, afterwards to Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only please, if wished donations for Headway Cardiff (supporting people with head injuries) may be sent to the funeral home.

POWELL
Pamela Joyce
(Née Treweeke)

On Wednesday, 8th February, aged 77 years in the presence of her daughters, Pam peacefully slipped away. Beloved and cherished wife of the late Ralph, devoted mum to Teresa, Linda and sons-in-law Anthony and the late Barrie. A proud and loving nan to Derryn, Rhys, Thomas, Cerys, James and their partners Emma, Claire, Matthew and Stuart. Great Nanny Powell to Jessica, Luke, Seren, Ethan, Ralph and Isabelle. Much loved sister to Anne and loved sister-in-law and aunty.

"Reunited with dad now, no more pain or suffering, rest now mum, love you always, your girls"

Pam is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until a celebration of her life at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Tuesday, 21st February at 11am. Family floral tributes only - donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Pam's online tribute page via www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories. All donations received will support Macmillan in memory of Pam.

DOWDELL
Dorothy May

Passed away suddenly but peacefully, aged 95, on Tuesday, February 8. Much loved mother and grandmother to Janet, Kim and Charlie, Dee will be deeply missed by her family and friends.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Tuesday, February 21, service and cremation 3pm at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only may be sent to the Funeral Home, donations in lieu, if desired, may be sent to the Dogs Trust or Cats Protection League.

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Family Notices

STEPHENS
Michael Glenwood

The family wish to announce the sad passing of Michael on February 7th at Barry Community Hospital. A devoted husband to Denise, much loved dad of Rachel and Paul. Respected father-in-law to Sophie.

Michael will be greatly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Memorial Park, Port Road East, Barry on Monday, February 20th at 11am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery.

Family flowers only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service or via Michael's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your personal messages and memories. All donations received will support St Barucs Ward, at Barry Hospital.

Further enquiries to 01446 407962.

ARCHARD
Melvyn John

Peacefully at his home, after a long illness bravely borne, Mel, of Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan. Much loved husband of Enid, greatly loved father of James and daughter-in-law Svetla, dear brother of Haydon.

Funeral Monday February 20, 2017, friends please meet for service at Coychurch Crematorium at 1.15pm. Family flowers only by request but donations for the British Red Cross Society may be sent direct to 9 Village Way, Greenmeadow Springs Business Park, Tongwynlais, Cardiff, CF15 7NE. Enquiries to Gareth Watts, Owen E Jones & Co Ltd, Maesteg, 01656 733167.

Enid and James would like to thank Dr Pardoe and the staff at the Health Centre for their care. They would also like to express their gratitude to the district nurses and all the staff at Cherish for caring for Mel, and also to Sylvia Williams, Chemist for her help.

POTTS
John (Jack)

12/9/1917 - 11/2/2017

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital with family around him, aged 99 years. Jack worked at RAF St Athan for 42 years, for his last 12 years he was cared for at Ty Dewi Sant Residential Home, Penarth.

Jack will be sadly missed by his daughters Margaret and Josie and their partners, grandchildren, Helen, Sarah, Paul, David, John and their partners and great grandchildren Evan, May, Ruby, Annabelle and Finley.

Resting at Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road East, Barry on Thursday, 23 February at 1pm.

HARRIS
Graham William

Peacefully on 6th February 2017, Graham, aged 83 years. Beloved husband of Glenys, devoted dad of Gareth, dear father-in-law of Gill. Cherished grampy to Megan and Hannah, loved brother of Joan.

Graham will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at St Mary's Church, Wenvoe on Thursday, 23rd February at 11am, followed by committal at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium.

Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Alzheimer's Society or Kidney Research UK c/o the funeral director.

In Memory

WELLS
Graham

(16 February)

No birthday cards today my love, just lovely memories of our life together. I miss you so much, you are always in my heart and my thoughts everyday.

Your loving wife, Glo xxx

Acknowledgement

FERNYHOUGH
Ian

Margaret and family wish to thank those who attended Ian's funeral and for the many messages of sympathy received.

We also wish to thank the Marie Curie Hospice at Home service and the District Nurses and staff of the Cowbridge and Vale Medical Practice.

Public Notices

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

ANSTEE LANDSCAPES & TREE FELLING CONTRACTORS LTD
Trading as **Anstee Services** of **Willow Cottage, Treoes, Bridgend, CF35 5DL** is applying to change an existing licence as follows: To add an operating centre to keep **4 goods vehicles and 4 trailers** at **48 Millers Avenue, Brynmenyn Industrial Estate, Brynmenyn, CF32 9TD.**
Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, Stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice.
Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at top of the top of this notice.
A guide to making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioners office.

PUBLIC NOTICE LICENSING ACT 2003

To whom it may concern
We **NG WINES LTD** do hereby give notice that we have applied to the licensing authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at
18 High Street, Cowbridge, Vale of Glamorgan, CF71 7RA known as Noble Grape. The application is for the sale by retail of alcohol during the hours
MON - SAT 09:00 - 21:00
SUNDAY 09:00 - 21:00
Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, not later than 28 days after the date of this notice.
Representations received after this date will not be considered.
A copy of the application can be viewed at the civic offices during normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5000.
Date - 8th February 2017

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)
Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a **PREMISES LICENCE** to permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be carried on, on or from the premises shown below. Details of the application may be inspected between the hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.
Any responsible authority or any other person may make representations in respect of the application, which must be submitted, in writing, to the following address before the date shown below:
Licensing Section, Bridgend County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB.
NAME OF APPLICANT:
Tayst Ltd
NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES: **9 Lias Rd, Porthcawl, CF36 3AH**
STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES: (1) **Supply of alcohol through a retail shop. Mon – Sun 9am to 10pm**
DATE BY WHICH REPRSENTATIONS MUST BE MADE: 14/03/17
This notice remains in force from and including the day after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 15/02/17, for 28 consecutive days.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application. The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.
(1) This must include details of activities, type of entertainment and appropriate days and times.

Adeilad y Goron
Parc Cathays
Caerdydd CF10 3NQ

The Planning Inspectorate
Yr Arolygiaeth Gynllunio
wales@pins.gsi.gov.uk

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Ystafell y Bwrdd, Swyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri CF63 4RT.

AR ddydd Mawrth 11 Ebrill 2017 am 10 a.m.

ER MWYN CYNNAL SMCHWILIAD LLEOL CYHOEDDUS AC WEDYN PENDERFYNU AR:

ORCHYMYN GWYRO LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS – LLWYBRAU TROED CYHOEDDUS RHIFAU 21 A 22, GWENFO – CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG 2016

Effaith y Gorchymyn, os caiff ei gadarnhau fel y'i gynnaed, fydd addasu'r Map Diffiniol a'r Datganiad ar gyfer yr ardal drwy ddargyfeirio'r llwybr troed cyhoeddus sy'n mynd o Port Road (NGR 312235 172261) i Clos Llanfair (NGR 312105 172515) a creu llwybr troed amgen yn ei le sy'n mynd ar hyd llwybr troed o Port Road (NGR 312264 172318) i Clos Llanfair (NGR 312103 172517), hefyd i ddargyfeirio'r llwybr troed sy'n mynd drwy ran ogleddol y clatbloylad rhwng NGR 311954 172502 a NGR 312039 172587 a creu llwybr troed amgen yn ei le sy'n mynd ar hyd llinell o NGR 311954 172502 i Clos Llanfair (NGR 312103 172517), fel y dangosir ar Map y Gorchymyn.

Diben yr Ymchwiliad yw galluogi'r Arolygydd i glywed sylwadau gan yr unigolion hynny sydd wedi gwrthwynebu'r Gorchymyn. Gall unrhyw bobl eraill à buddiant fod yn bresennol hefyd a siarad, fel y gwêl yr Arolygydd orau.

Gall unrhyw un sydd eisau gweld datganiadau'r achos a dogfennau eraill yn ymwneud â'r Gorchymyn wneud hynny drwy apwyntiad yn Swyddfeydd Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Swyddfa'r Dociau, Dociau'r Barri, Y Barri CF63 4RT (cysylltwch à Gwyn Teague ar 01446 704810 neu anfonwch e-bost at gwteague@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Isabel Nethell
Awdurdodwyd gan Weinidogion Cymru
RYDYM YN CROESAWU GOHEBIAETH YN GYMRAEG A SAESNEG

TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT AN INSPECTOR APPOINTED BY the Welsh Ministers WILL ATTEND AT

the Board Room, The Docks Office, Barry Docks CF63 4RT.

ON Tuesday 11th April 2017 at 10 a.m.

TO HOLD A PUBLIC LOCAL INQUIRY AND TO SUBSEQUENTLY DETERMINE:

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL – PUBLIC FOOTPATHS NOS. 21 & 22, WENVOE – PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2016

The effect of the Order, if confirmed as made, will modify the Definitive Map and Statement for the area by diverting the public footpath running from Port Road (NGR 312235 172261) to Clos Llanfair (NGR 312105 172515) and to create an alternative footpath instead running on to a line running from Port Road (NGR312264 172318) to Clos Llanfair (NGR 312103 172517), also to divert the footpath running through the northern section of the development between NGR 311954 172502 and NGR 312039 172587 and to create an alternative footpath instead on a line running from NGR 311954 172502 to Clos Llanfair (NGR 312103 172517) as shown on the Order Map.

The purpose of the Inquiry is to enable the Inspector to hear representation from those persons who have objected to the Order. Any other interested persons may also attend and be allowed to speak at the discretion of the Inspector.

Any person wishing to view the statements of case and other documents relating to the Orders may do so by appointment at the Vale of Glamorgan Council Offices, Dock Office, Barry Docks, Barry CF63 4RT (Contact Gwyn Teague on 01446 704810 or email gwteague@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk)

Isabel Nethell
Authorised by the Welsh Ministers
WE WELCOME COMMUNICATIONS IN WELSH AND ENGLISH

Situations Vacant

Due to expansion Cherish Cymru requires full & part time Home Care Workers
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Contact Robin Kiff on ***01446 772904***
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01446 774484

Birthday Announcement

The family of
Dorothy Rogers
(formerly of Montgomery Road, now at Gower Court, Barry)
would love all friends and neighbours old and new to join them to celebrate
Dot's 90th Birthday
(20.02.2017) on Saturday 25th February, between 2pm - 4pm at the Margaret Alexander Community Centre, Alexandra Crescent, Barry, CF62 7HU. Refreshments provided.

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BARRY KYOKUSHIN TAKE RECORD NUMBER OF TROPHIES FROM CHAMPIONSHIP

ON February 4, Barry Kyokushin karate club hosted and attended the IKO Welsh Championships at the Barry Memorial Hall.

The tournament began with Kata (pattern), in which the Barry Club dominated.

Out of five Kata categories, Barry Kyokushin took first place in four of the categories.

Devon Ruckley (10th Kyu), in his first ever tournament, took first place, closely followed by fellow club member Adam Tudor who took second, and Sebastian Barczewski who took home a third place.

Ben Harris was unfortunately pipped to the post and secured fourth place.

In the second category, Kelly Shi took home first place, scoring .4 higher than her closest opponent, and Angel Benevant secured herself third place.

In the third category, Leanne Lirio took home gold, and Justine Bolanos secured herself a very close second place.

In the fourth category, assistant instructor Rhian Evans took home first place, with club member Claire Norman taking third.

The next event was clicker, which was dominated by Barry Kyokushin once again. In the first category, Sebastian Barczewski and Andre Espiritu battled for first and second place over the final match, with three extensions.

Sebastian just managed to gain first place in the final bout, with Andre Espiritu securing himself a well-deserved second place.

In the second category, two club members found themselves in the final to battle it out once again. Ben Bolanos won gold, with Brodie Taylor gaining a second place trophy.

In the final category, Kelly Shi was in the final and battled to win second place, with club member Bella Horsell placed third.

The next division was Cadet Knockdown. In the first division, James Shi took home gold after fights with much bigger opponents.

In the second category, Barry Kyokushin had two members fighting for third place, Justine Bolanos and Leanne Lirio. After a very close fight, Leanne Lirio secured herself third place and Justine a well-deserved runner-up after three tough fights.

The final category for the day was the knockdown. Club member Jordan Sidford was entered into Men's Lightweight and after a few tough fights, Jordan won third place after his final fight, which was well-deserved.

In Men's Middleweight, club member Paul Lambert found himself in the final, battling for first place. Paul took home a second place trophy after a difficult final fight.

Two club members, Gareth Dutton and Dryw Thompson, had been entered into Men's Heavyweight and both found themselves battling for third place against one another. After a tough fight, Gareth Dutton took third place, and Dryw was runner-up.

In total Barry Kyokushin took home 20 medals. These were seven first place, six second place and seven third place.

Club instructor, Senpai Phill Sedgmond said: "The tournament was such a great success, not only for our club, but for our Welsh Organisation. It's very hard for youngsters in Wales to travel to compete. To have one on their doorstep opens up new opportunities for them. I'm obviously exceptionally proud of the achievements of my students at this event, and their hard work has paid off by taking away 20 trophies from this. I think that might actually be a record for the 39 years our club has been going. Well done to all."

In April, Phill Sedgmond is heading to Japan to take a 3rd Dan Black Belt grading test over two days, and club instructor Rhian Evans is also going to compete in kata in the World Championships.

Barry Kyokushin Karate Club train at Castleland Community Centre on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6pm to 7.30pm for under-14s and 7.30pm to 9pm for 14 and over. Email barrykarate@hotmail.com for more information, or find us on our Facebook page.

Council pledges its support to up-and-coming sportspeople

THE Vale Council has joined forces with Legacy Leisure to support a number of talented young sportspeople across the Vale.

The Sports Academy Scheme offers successful Academy members free access to Vale Council-owned leisure facilities. By taking away this financial burden, the Council hopes that the athletes can focus on their training, and achieve their sporting aspirations.

The Council's sports & play development manager, Karen Davies, said: "The Vale is fortunate to have a large number of residents competing at a very high level, meaning there was high competition for the limited spaces available on the scheme.

"All of the successful applicants are Welsh internationals and Welsh squad members in their respective sports, with a number of them competing for Great Britain."

Eighteen-year-old Matilda Matthews, from Barry, is one of the successful Sports Academy members to have competed for Team GB.

She has competed at the Sailing 420 World Championships, and at the World Cup – a competition that Olympic silver medallist, Hannah Mills, of Dinas Powys, also competed at – as well as the Junior World Championships.

Miss Matthew's ambition for 2017/18 is to retain her GB selection, and make the step from Youth to Olympic squad.

Kristian Jones, an 18-year-old sprinter from Treoes, is another local resident who has been representing Great Britain at various international events.

Mister Jones is the current under-20 100m and 200m champion, and qualified for the highly-contested British Olympic trials. He currently trains with the GB squad, and is hoping to qualify for the Commonwealth Games as an individual, and as part of the relay team.

Other successful Sports Academy members include international discus throwers, a wrestler aiming for 2018 Commonwealth Games, a GB surf lifesaving champion, a British champion sprint kayaker aiming for the Commonwealth Games and the Olympics, GB sailors, and a Tae Kwon Do international ranked second in Great Britain.

Coun. Gwyn John, Vale Council's cabinet member for Visible, Leisure and Regulatory Services, said of the Academy Scheme: "It was an extremely difficult task for the panel members to select who would take up the coveted spaces.

"It is fantastic, however, to see such tremendous talent coming out of the Vale, much of which has been nurtured by the strong sports clubs we have in our county.

"We hope that their membership with the Sports Academy will assist them in their sporting careers."

Sports Academy membership is decided yearly, with all 2017 spaces now occupied. Applications for membership for the 2018 period will be accepted around October.

Under-13s finally get to wear new kit!

On Sunday Barry RFC under-13s played their first game of the year at home against CRICCC.

Bannister scored both tries for Barry with Baron grabbing the conversions. The team were able to wear their new kit, courtesy of APEC executive travel, while Danny Borge of Artisan Kitchens helped to provide new windbreakers and after-match polo tops.

Also massive thanks to Andy Kirby, all the parents and coaches Simon Cox, Ieuan Rendell and Alex Szuchnik for their perseverance with the team.

Team: Belnoris, Everitt, Bannister, Szucknik, Borge, Baron, Phillips Kirby, Cox, Ewington, Bradley, Beer, Carter, Hill and Jones.

If your son is interested in joining please contact 07889742153.

RB

Barry chess team defeated in Cup

THERE were no league games this week due to the East Glamorgan Knock Out Cup.

Our sole remaining team was drawn at home to North Cardiff A. A lot of clubs do not take this seriously but that cannot be said of North Cardiff.

Ironically we were drawn at home against them at the same stage in the competition last year when we managed to win by a 3-1 margin.

This time it was not to be as Sam Jukes won on board 4, Steve Cunliffe and Matthew Parry drew on boards 2 and 3 but Matthew Davies had the unenviable task of playing the top ranked player in the tournament, Tim Kett.

Losing to Tim is not unexpected so this left the match score at 2-2. The tie break is 'bottom board elimination', which meant we lost the game 2-1.

Good luck to North Cardiff in their semi-final at home to Bridgend A.

I note from the results received that the Bridgend B team defaulted their match. This is the third match defaulted this year and brings into question the viability of this tournament; perhaps that will be discussed further at the East Glamorgan AGM in June.

All of our matches due to be played by the Barry Chess Club this week have been cancelled due to the funeral of one of our members, Windsor Lewis.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30 pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

BARRIVALE BRIDGE CLUB RESULTS

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for February 7:

1st Mark Roderick & Noelle Bond 74.29%; 2nd Mick Green & Jane Brook 69.17%; 3rd Denis Mottram & Jenny Vaughan 57.50%. Bev Lewis and Peter Daughton won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively, players, inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address.

DR

BRIAN LEE'S BLAST FROM THE PAST 1996

UNDER the heading 'Brace Launches Season With Treble' this is what I had to say back then: 'Bridgend businessman David Brace, who trains racehorses in his spare time, had a fine start to the Welsh season when saddling three winners and another that was disqualified at the Vale of Clettwr Hunt Steeplechases.

His five-year-old mare Mrs Wumpkins started the winning streak when winning division two of the maiden race under Pip Jones.'

In division four,his six-year-old Gunner Boon,ridden by Evan Williams, of Llancarfan, finished ahead of Celtic Daughter, ridden by Jamie Jukes, only to be disqualified after a lengthy enquiry for going the wrong side of a flag.'

'However, half-an-hour or so later, Brace was back in the winner's enclosure after his Goolds Gold, an ex-Irish 10-year-old, partnered by Jamie Jukes,scored a surprise win in the men's open race when trouncing the odds-on favourite Wolf Winter. Pip Jones was back in the saddle for Brace's third winner African Bride which took the first division of the restricted in fine style.

African Bride was the third leg of a treble for Jones who had earlier won the ladies' open race on Handsome Harvey who came home an impressive ten lengths winner.'

'Jukes also notched up a treble as apart from Celtic Daughter and Goolds Gold he also won another division of the maiden on Stormy Witness who was his 50th winner of the season. Grant Lewis, who told me he had to lose around two stone before the start of the season to ride in point-to-points, said it was all worth while after riding his first ever double with Judgeroger (members) and Cranagh Moss in a division of the maiden. Both his winners made all the running throughout and could soon be winning again.'

Another division of the maiden went to Jon Tudor's Just Marmalade who proved too speedy for Final Cruise. Vivian Hughes rode an excellent finish on Miss Millbrook, who overtook Metro Style on the run-in to win the confined race and Mister Horatio made all under Mark Lewis to win the second division.'

'JOHN MAKES HISTORY'

'Point to-point history was made at the Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Steeplechases on Saturday when Cardiff bookmaker John Lovell introduced his potable computer to the hunt-racing scene.'

'Punters are given a little print-out which not only tells them the name of the horse they backed but also how much they collect should their bet be a winner.'

'Lovell, who is the only bookmaker at present using the device on racecourses throughout the country said: "It prevents any disputes and will be widely used in time by when other bookmakers catch on."

He added: "This is the first time it has ever been used at a point-to-point."

Wales leading lady rider Pip Jones brought her season's tally of wins to ten with a double on African Bride (club race) and Lucky Ole Son (intermediate).'

'African Bride, who was winning for the fourth time this season, won easily by 15 lengths from My Boy Barney and Lucky Ole Son went clear five out to score by a distance from Construction King.'

'Brother Prim, backed from 20-1 to 4-1, came down when leading at the ninth. Both winners are owned and trained by Bridgend businessman David Brace and Lucky Ole Son was his ninth winner of the season.

Wales' first mixed open race was won by Lighten The Load who, under 20-year-old Adrian Wintle, won by 30 lengths from Touch 'N'Pass with the even money favourite Sandy Beau a disappointing third.'

'Lighten The Load is owned by Phil Payne who lives not far from the course and who celebrated his 60th birthday the day before.'

'Mr Payne's fence building company provided all the portable fences used on the course. Mother of two Joanne Hawkins took the confined on Cyril Morgan's La Mezary who went clear three fences from home to win by 15 lengths from Mo's Chorister.

Greengrocer Steve Blackwell rode his third winner of the season when making all in the first division of the maiden on Icecapade and Llancarfan's Evan Williams rode his first winner of the season when taking the second division on Andrew Hazell's 11-year-old The Fun Of it.'

'However, Mr Hazell wasn't there to lead in his first winner as he was watching Wales beating Scotland at the National Stadium! Apparently, The Fun Of It, who is trained by former jockey June Lewis, ran in a record 31 bumper races in Ireland.'

'Happiest man on the course was Gwilym Isaac who saw his homebred Bay Leader land a pillar to post win in the members' race. Bay Leader was confidently ridden by 18-year-old Emma Tamplin and Mr Isaac, who has horses with Jenny Pitman,was landing his first winner in 30 years!'

'TUDOR TRIUMPHS WITH TREBLE TOP IN BEST-EVER SEASON'

'Jonathan Tudor landed his first treble in six years when winning on Cairneymount, Touch'N' Pass and Harry From Barry at the Tredegar Farmers Point-To-Point Steeplechases, which saw the close of the 1996 season.'

'Cairneymount won by a distance from Pharrago after his nearest pursuer Prince Nepal had slipped up on the approach to the third last fence. Touch 'N' Pass, who like Cairneymount is trained by Robert Williams at Ogmore, scored by 15 lengths from Jamie Juke's mount Oragas.

Harry From Barry, who got home by a length from Boddington Hill, was being strongly challenged by Good Boy Charlie, ridden by Jukes, when he fell at the last.

Harry From Barry, a reject from Philip Hobbs' yard, is owned by Gwyn Davies and trained by Jonathan's father Billy Tudor. Jonathan, a 31-year-old from Pencoed, is enjoying his best ever season having ridden 13 winners.'

'Emma Crawford, aged 24,from Magor, notched-up her third winner in eight rides when winning the ladies' open race on her 12-year-old Mendip Music.'

'Mendip Music, who took over the lead approaching the 10th of the 16 fences, had five lengths to spare over Never Be Great and won in a time which was five seconds faster than when winning over the same course last weekend.'

'Tim Jones took the restricted open on Sterling Buck who finished four lengths ahead of Meadow Cottage after taking up the running approaching the third last fence.

Hereford's Emma James recored her sixth winner of the season when taking the second division of the maiden on Bowland Girl who won by three lengths from Relatively High.'

'Backers of the long odds-on Polly Pringle had a shock when Mrs Carmen Goldsworthy's mare nearly unshipped Andrew Price at the second fence in the members' race.

Price somehow managed to stay in the saddle and went on to win by a street's length from Light The Wick, who was so tired he was walked past the winning post.'

**As a follow-up to my 'Racing Rogues - The Scams, Scandals and Gambles of Horse Racing in Wales', I am looking for stories, press cuttings and photographs for my next book which will be 'A Miscellany of Horse Racing in Wales'.*

It will also include point-to-point and unlicensed meetings, riders and horses of note, strange or odd races, scams, gambles successful or otherwise.

Please e-mail brianlee4@virginmedia.com or phone 02920736438.

BRIAN LEE

The Barry and District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Moors Boys 10, Wyndham Cons 5; Rhoose Social 8, West End Runaways 7; Liberals 10, Cadoxton Cons 5.

League table: Liberals 129, Moors Boys 120, Wyndham Cons 119, Rhoose Social 118, West End Runaways 112, West End 103, Cadoxton Cons 94.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Allsorts 7, King William XII 0; Rhoose Social A 5.5, Rugby Club 1.5; Slammers 2, Sea View B 5; Cambrian Flyers 2, West End C 5; Liberals C 3, West End D 4; Rhoosters 7, Liberals A 0; Rhoose Social B 2, Barries Boys 5.

League table: West End D 74.5, West End C 71, King William XII 67.5, Allsorts 64, Sea View B 64, Rhoosters 60, Rugby Club 60, Barries Boys 55.5, Rhoose Social C 53.5, Rhoose Social B 52, Rhoose Social A 50, Slammers 43.5, Liberals C 39.5, Liberals A 38, Cambrian Flyers 33.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Rhoose Social C 2, Wyndham Cons A 3; Cadoxton Cons B 4, West End C 1; Savoy A 4, Penarth Cons A 1; Harbour B 5, Services Social B 0; Cadoxton Cons Z 4, Rhoose Social B 1.

League table: Harbour B 66, Savoy A 65, Cadoxton Cons Z 51, Wyndham Cons A 44, Cadoxton Cons B 43, West End C 39, Rhoose Social B 39, Penarth Cons A 35 Rhoose Social C 27, Penarth Cons B 26, Services Social B 25.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Sully Sports A 2, Liberators 3; Savoy B 3, Market Street B 2; West End B 1, Wyndham Cons C 4; Market Street C 4, Harbour A 1; West End A 2, Wyndham Cons D 3.

League table: Liberators 56, Savoy B 55, Wyndham Cons C 54, Harbour A 47, Market Street B 47, Market Street C 43, Cadoxton Cons A 42, West End B 34, Wyndham Cons D 34, West End A 32, Sully Sports A 31 (* = points deducted)

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Barry Amateur Swimming Club hands out awards at AGM

Some of the award winners

ON January 28, Barry Amateur Swimming Club held their annual AGM and presentation evening at St Andrews Golf Club.

Chairman Heulwen Cooper welcomed everyone to the 91st AGM and Annita Rees had agreed to present the cups with life members Elaine Romain, Teresa Wheeler, Trudi Phillips and Stephanie Cody.

Mrs Cooper said that during 2016, the club withdrew from the Arena League Competition as there were too few boys to compete in this event.

The club was grateful to Mark Borges who had trained as a level one swimming coach. It was noted that helpers and qualified coaches were always needed at the poolside.

In April, Mike Looker who had been coaching for many years, would be stepping back shortly. Roger and Jonathan, who have been working hard to train the junior squad, have both had to give up recently, so some parents have been helping. Mark Borges and his daughter Eleri Borges (junior coach) have been covering the Monday sessions.

Some of the senior swimmers had been volunteering for their Duke of Edinburgh awards recently and it is hoped that they might be able to offer some assistance poolside in the future.

The club was very fortunate that Martin Harries had stayed to help on a Sunday morning as he is a level one qualified coach.

The number of people currently involved in running the club is a very small, and it cannot run without more volunteers!

On February 3, the postal long distance swim took place – girls first, and boys the following Friday.

On March 11, there is a gala at Rhondda and the club will host a home gala on May 7.

On July 15, most of the swimmers will be competing in the Cardiff Bay meet, a competition which has been running for 27 years.

Barry Amateur Swimming Club members with their medals and trophies.

The treasurer reported that the club finances were in a good position at present and the election of the committee followed.

Cups and medals that had been won at the annual championships in November were presented to the winners by Annita Rees and some of the younger members received their awards from coach Eleri Borges.

Trophies presented for outstanding efforts were as follows: The Best Runner Up trophy were awarded to Daisy Thomas and Ethan Hole.

The Best Newcomer trophy was awarded to Ellie May Bradbury and Harry Townsend.

The Best Novice Swimmer trophies were awarded to Ruby Dickson Davies and Rauley Hunter.

The Most Improved Swimmer trophy were presented Caitlin Williams and Thomas Pugh.

Some of the adults and older members who had worked hard during the year were also presented with trophies, the Loyalty Cup was presented to Eleri Borges for her coaching, and the club member of the Year trophies were awarded to Paula Harkus and Mike Sully.

The club captain will be Bethan Williams and vice captains, Pia Sully and Nia Fuller.

Annita Rees was presented with a bouquet of flowers and made a life member of the club.

Under-11s edge game with neighbours

COWBRIDGE under-11s hosted our neighbours from Llantrisant, which is always a close affair.

Again the game failed to disappoint. The visitors took the lead straight from the kick-off, however the hosts quickly responded with Sam Sheppard equalling the score.

Cowbridge powered ahead with Josh Canning adding to the lead and the strong running of Will Brennan bagging a brace to take the lead to 4-1.

Great forward play witnessed the industrious work of Will Martin rewarded with a try. Not wanting to rollover, Llantrisant secured two quick in response, one of which went to Cowbridge's own Corey Williams who was 'playing for the badge' for Llantrisant.

Two more came in a counterattack for the hosts with Cowbridge securing a 7-3 lead through Harry Smith and again the powerful forward play from the pack from Sam Sheppard.

Llantrisant clearly wanted to make the game even and Cowbridge struggled to contain their powerful running with three quick tries, one again from Cowbridge's own Leo Beghini playing for the visitors.

With the ties all scored at 7-7 it appeared to be an even affair, however the Cowbridge Bears this season have failed to disappoint.

Paddy Whitestone clearly wanted to give the spoils to the home team and a fantastic well-worked move witnessed a scintillating final play and the honours going to the hosts 8-7.

Well done, Cowbridge, again another fantastic all-round team performance.

CF

Under-14s and under-16s teams reach the cup finals

IT was a weekend to remember for Barry Town United Ladies FC as both the under-14s and under-16s girls teams successfully came through their South Wales FA Cup semi-finals with victories over AFC Porth and Merthyr Town.

The results continue an impressive season to date for both age groups who are competing on all fronts in league and cup competitions.

The under-14 team took on AFC Porth at Jenner Park Stadium and as anticipated this was always going to be a tight affair with one goal determining the victors in the previous encounters this season.

Barry again came out on top in this fixture 1-0 and deservedly so having controlled possession for long periods of the match but had to wait 10 minutes from the end to get their goal from striker Phoebe Curtis.

The girls put in a strong team performance with the visitors rarely threatening the Barry goal and the result could have been more convincing had Barry taken numerous opportunities.

However, the result now gives the team an opportunity to win some silverware with a final against local rivals Cardiff City Ladies that will take place at the end of April.

In the under-16 age group, Barry were looking to follow up their FAW Cup quarter-final win last week with another cup victory at Merthyr Town's Penydarren Park Stadium.

In freezing conditions the girls struggled to get into their normal rhythm in the first half, regularly gifting possession away despite dominating for long periods. The home side took a shock lead when Barry failed to deal with a cross from the left which was tapped home by the striker.

For the first time this season, Barry went in at half time behind and this was a real test of character but the squad picked themselves up and arguably put in their best half of football of the season in the second period running in five goals and missing numerous other opportunities.

The equaliser came from a Bethan O'Donnell cross deflected in for an own goal and then Striker Emma Cannon deservedly put Barry in front calmly chipping the ball over the goalkeeper who also had a fine game.

Barry were getting ahead of steam as the match wore on and soon got a third when midfielder Jasmine Rowley hooked the ball home in the penalty area from a set piece before substitute Sophie Hawkins made it four cutting in from the left wing.

The best goal was saved until the end when a fine move playing from the defensive unit into midfield saw the ball go out wide and Rowley was on hand to covert the cross to make the final score 5-1 to Barry.

Credit to the defensive unit who were strong throughout protecting their goal with Merthyr rarely troubling the Barry goalkeeper.

The under-16s will now take on Rhydyfelin in the final.

Under-14s squad: J Bullock, E Dimmick, C Meadows, T Cayton, S McDarren, O Barnett, E Hilliard, F Spence, M Cayton, T Trivett, E Matthews, S Meade, P Curtis, L Harris.

Under-16s squad: R Stanley, B O'Donnell, D Connolly, H Jenkins, O Townsend, J Rowley, A Jama, K Spargo, G Corne, S Rees, E Cannon, S Hawkins, M Atkins.

LW

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, February 7 a full programme of league matches was played.

The league leaders the Edmondes B remain unstoppable, beating Llanharry 7-2. In the tight battle for second slot the Six Bells regained that position by beating the Victoria Inn 9-0, while the Highwayman Inn only won 6-3 against the Farmers Arms.

The Edmondes A beat the Red Lion 8-1 and in the closest match of the evening Hairy Farmers just defeated the Edmondes C 5-4.

It was an evening of excellent, high-scoring darts with Martin Gaffney (Edmondes B) and Paul Mayze (Victoria Inn) both hitting a 180. John Izzard (Hairy Farmers) joined the 100 and over out club with a 101 three-dart-out.

Other notable high outs were Tony Fox's (Farmers Arms) 72 (a two-dart-out), Owen Carter (Farmers Arms) 94, Mike Newble (Llanharry) 89, Rob McCaver (Hairy Farmers) 73 and Frank Butler (Edmondes B) 56.

Present league standings, after 16 weeks, are: Edmondes B (104 points), Six Bells Inn (91), Highwayman Inn (90), Edmondes A (80), Edmondes C (75), Llanharry (73), Hairy Farmers (67), Farmers Arms (64), Victoria Inn (61) and Red Lion (15).

Next week (Tuesday, February 21) another full programme of league matches are scheduled. The Edmondes B hosts the Red Lion, the Hairy Farmers hosts the Farmers Arms, the Edmondes C hosts the Edmondes A, Llanharry hosts the Victoria Inn and the Highwayman Inn hosts the Six Bells Inn.

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome.

For further information e-mail Paul a t cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Barry RFC back in league action

THIS weekend, Barry RFC return to league action with a home fixture against Pontyclun, kick off 2.30pm.

The team will be looking forward to getting back on the winning trail, hopefully strengthened by the return of injured and unavailable players, their loss having seen the side struggle in recent weeks.

The lottery is still there to be won, with nobody matching last week's numbers which were 06, 08, 15 and 16; this week's jackpot will be £3,725.

AJ

Netball squad impress at inter-county tourney

THE Cardiff & Vale under-14 Netball Squad travelled to Bangor University for the Welsh under-14 Inter-Counties Championships on Saturday, January 28.

The squad of 26 players were selected last September from over 150 girls from all the secondary schools in Cardiff and the Vale. The squads were split into the A team tournament and the B team tournament.

Both teams set off to an impressive start by beating the South East Wales team convincingly and this set the tone for the day by beating the North East Wales, Powys, North Wales and West Wales.

Two tough matches for the A Squad against Glamorgan Valleys and Afan Nedd Tawe saw the girls having to pull on all their experience and mental toughness to secure these victories, which they did and play some outstanding netball to secure the Welsh title.

The B squad were incredible all day and won all their matches by some margin to become well deserved Welsh Champions. All the secondary schools should be extremely proud of these young netballers and what they have achieved.

A squad: Georgie Hellerman, (c) St Richard Gwyn High School, Elli Beddall (c) Cardiff High School, Mabli Evans Ysgol Bro Ederyn, Macy White St Cyres Comprehensive School, Niamh Sultana Stanwell Comprehensive, Hannah Jones Ysgol Glantaf, Gwenno Manley Ysgol Glantaf, Abbie Pattison Corpus Christi High School, Alyssa Colderley Stanwell Comprehensive, Caitlin Mackie Ysgol Glantaf, Lowri Clarke Ysgol Bro Ederyn, Catrin Roy Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Cadi Enoch Ysgol Glantaf.

B squad: Jessica Richard-Clode (c) Ysgol Bro Ederyn, Thea Mycroft (c) St Teilos High School, Manon Bryant Ysgol Glantaf, Emma Fitzherbert Cardiff High School, Annabelle Walters Howells School, Elena George Cardiff High School, Moli Watts Ysgol Plasmawr, Amy Callow Ysgol Bro Ederyn, Chloe Berrow St Richard Gwyn High School, Caitlin Crisp Ysgol Glantaf, Ella Lewellyn Ysgol Glantaf, Tanisha Griffiths Ysgol Bro Ederyn, Alaw Evans Ysgol Glantaf.

Coaches: Melanie Hellerman Corpus Christi, Melissa Hunter Stanwell, Jo Knight Llantwit Major.

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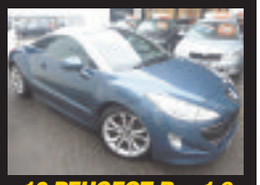

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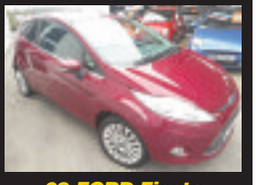

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62 FORD Fiesta 1.2 Zetec 5-Dr In white, 32,000 miles, with a/c alloys etc **£6,495**

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09 MINI One 1.4 In met grey with pepper pack, alloys etc, 57,000 miles.....**£4,995**

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Barry Town United sit top of the league after victory

CONTINUING their quest for championship honours, Barry Town United went top of Welsh League Division One on Saturday, with a workmanlike 3-1 win at promoted Caldicot Town.

On an afternoon that saw the nation's attention diverted by the chase for the oval ball, the Jenner Park side kept their focus at Jubilee Way to record a fourth consecutive win on their travels.

With manager Gavin Chesterfield resting skipper James Saddler, midfielder Louis Gerrard maximised his inclusion by opening the scoring from the penalty spot and while the home side would bag an equaliser in the 38th minute, Gerrard restored the visitors' advantage into the second half.

With Caldicot accruing a slew of bookings and losing their goalkeeper to a sending off, Barry then drew a line under the encounter as TJ Nagi added their third, securing the three points that lifted them to the summit, after previous leaders Goytre crashed to a 4-1 defeat at Caerau Ely.

This Saturday, the Town will travel to the CCB Centre of Excellence in Ystrad Mynach to tackle Risca United, while Goytre welcome Ton Pentre to Plough Road, hoping to get their own title tilt back on track, ahead of an enticing Barry vs Goytre showdown at Jenner Park seven days later.

With only three points separating the current top four, Barry supporters will also be keeping an eye on events at Cambrian and Clydach and Port Talbot Town, although Gavin Chesterfield's squad does have the cushion of at least one game in hand on each of the chasing pack.

AC

Town's four-some performances puts them into semi-finals

COWBRIDGE TOWN'S first team continued their run of good form with a resounding win in the quarter-final of the Vale Of Glamorgan ASRS Cup.

Playing at home the town hosted bottom of the league Masons Removals and came out 4-0 winners.

The town started well, and after seven minutes created their first of many chances with Connor Benyon crossing from the left and James Kennedy volleying just wide.

As the game progressed it became apparent that Cowbridge just had to remain patient to get their first goal.

Several chances were squandered with Gavin, Cooper and the Kennedy brothers all narrowly missing scoring opportunities.

It wasn't until the 40th minute that Cowbridge took the lead, with a somewhat scrappy goal. It came from a corner that Masons failed to clear, after two shots on goal the ball came back to Lloyd Lewis who with some aplomb buried the volley in the roof of the net.

Then directly from the kick off the ball was played forward to Pinchbeck who controlled it with his right foot and then hit an unstoppable left foot drive into the top left hand corner of the goal, from all of 25 yards, leaving the goalkeeper firmly rooted to the spot.

A couple of minutes later the half-time whistle went and the town went into the break 2-0 up.

The start of the second half saw much of the same with total domination from the town.

The game progressed with long range chances falling to Hans Kennedy, Mathew Little and Jack Gavin, all after good build up play in the middle of the park and down the flanks. Substitutions were made with Ryan Ashby, Adam Bennet and Mike Gingell all getting valuable time on the pitch and making valuable contributions when they got on.

Despite all the changes Cowbridge kept their focus and their shape and the chances continued to follow with Gavin, Ashby both going close after good build up play.

Then in the 40th minute the ball came down the flank towards Gavin who rose to head it into the box where it was picked up by Ashby who was immediately brought down for a penalty.

Lloyd Lewis stepped up and sending the keeper the wrong way easily scored to make it 3-0.

The final touch was then added when Mathew Little found himself at the back post on the end of a Benyon cross and deftly chipped the ball over the floundering goalkeeper to make it 4-0.

Cowbridge manager Andy Pinchbeck confirmed the team had played well, but that he was still a little concerned at the amount of chances that had been squandered: "We still have work to do to improve but lets enjoy the wins while they keep coming."

Cowbridge Town's next game is away to AFC Rhoose in a VOG Premier League top-of-the-table clash on Saturday, February 18.

AP

Cowbridge RFC look to do the double!

HAVING not played since January 21, Cowbridge first XV will be raring to go this Saturday at home against league newcomers Cardiff Saracens.

The Saracens have had a difficult season so far, winning just three of their 14 games and currently lie 11th in the league. Cowbridge currently lie sixth with six wins out of 12 and will be looking for the first double of the season, having won 3-13 at the Saracens in October.

There will be another break the following week as Wales take on Scotland and then on March 4 we travel to Tylorstown, followed by a home game against Old Penarthians on March 11.

The youth play at Beddau this Saturday.

RV/RK

Josh nets four as Saints beat Island Marine in cup

AFTER a few weeks away due to the weather St Athan returned to action, this time in the historic ASRS Cup, to host Island Marine at the newly-named Paul Lewis Memorial Ground.

A competition the club haven't won since 1977, Saints progressed to the semi-finals after a hard-fought game with Josh Morgan notching all four to add to an excellent overall man of the match display from the 18 year old.

Saints saw a couple of changes from their last outing with Jordan Mortimore and Richie Humphreys missing through work commitments and Leigh Lewis suspended.

In came Nicky Cox and Jonathan Ashton into the back four with Aaron Rogers up top and Gareth Richards between the sticks. Deon Garrison was named captain for the game.

Island Marine started the better side and looked to carve early openings, Saints only early effort was from Karl Steel, whose low drive was inches wide.

The away side continued to cause problems and soon reaped their rewards as a ball through the middle was missed by the home defence allowing Marine to steal in to open the scoring to much jubilation.

St Athan were working hard all over the park but their efforts weren't converting into chances. Marine meanwhile were causing problems down the left and should have doubled their lead off a fine low cross but nobody could get on the end of.

St Athan started to make inroads into the away defence and finally saw the benefits; Brad Young lifted a superb ball over the Marine defence for Josh Morgan to race away and finish exquisitely with a chip into the top corner.

Saints soon had the lead as Nicky Cox was caught by a high boot in the area and a spot kick awarded. Josh Morgan dually dispatched the penalty with aplomb.

Saints were rolling now and playing some good football as their confidence started to drain back into them and a third wasn't far away.

Steel picked the ball up on the left and produced a pass of such magnitude words cannot do it justice, the pass picked out Josh Morgan who let the ball run across him before firing right footed across the keeper into the net for his hat trick, tremendous finishing by the youngster.

The temperature may have been sub zero but the game really started to hear up as the tackles began to fly in. The game threatened to spill over after a late tackle by the Marine forward and a minor tussle followed which saw a Marine player receive a red card.

The second half saw the tempo drop right off until Marine pulled a goal back after some sloppy home defending, and this sparked Marine into life and they went close with two more efforts.

Saints looked to play on the counter-attack and one such attack soon paid off and put the tie to bed. Phil Morgan picked up the ball on the halfway line and proceeded to beat three players with skill and ease; he then played in his younger brother, Josh, who buried his fourth of the game and Saints were now through.

Saints advance to the semi-finals next month to play the winners of Barry Athletic and Vale United; the other semi-final is Cowbridge vs Rhoose.

In the meantime, this week sees Saints host Alliance League side Cardiff Airport in the last 16 of the SWFA Intermediate Cup.

St Athan: Richards, Cox, Young, Ashton, Garrison, Laing, Lewis, Austin, Steel, Rogers, J.Morgan. Subs. P.Morgan, Ball, Pugh.

We'd like to thank our sponsors Owens Motor Services, Llandow for their tremendous support of the club. Also many thanks to Diving & Marine Engineering, Llantwit Valet & Car Wash and Kinsale Stone Co (Wales) Ltd.

HD

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Interesting discovery of cricket fixture card... FROM 1901!

A chance discovery by Miss Joan Bird of Freshwater East in Pembrokeshire of a piece of cricket memorabilia, the 1901 fixture card for the E H Ebsworth XI, has solved a mystery that has existed since those who were around at the time passed away.

Joan passed the fixture card onto the Cowbridge Cricket Club and immediately it shone a light on a decade for which existed little evidence.

Indeed the information contained on this small card provided the missing piece of information that would have been extremely helpful to the authors of '1840 and all that', the story of the Cowbridge club that was published to mark the 175th anniversary of the first recorded fixture in 1840.

When the book was written it was not clear what cricket had been played by the Cowbridge town club once Harry Ebsworth had opened his new ground and established his sporting and socially high end private XI in 1896.

Once the Rev Owen Jones established the Cowbridge Wanderers Cricket Club in 1906 there are good records but there was a mystery of a missing decade.

What the card tells us is that playing on Mr Ebsworth's fine ground was an Ebsworth second XI which had regular fixtures against local teams. This second XI had not been known of but it would appear to have been those same townsfolk who had previously played under the name of Cowbridge.

During the period of the gap in our knowledge they played as the Ebsworth second XI.

The 1901 second XI fixtures were a real mix. The School, referred to as 'The College' was played on May 23 and the School won. There were matches against such teams as Cardiff Electrics, Cardiff Teachers and the Cardiff Commercial Travellers XI.

Local teams played included Llanharan, Bonvilstone, Llandough and Southerndown, all now sadly defunct.

The 1901 fixture card augments the bits and pieces held by the Cowbridge Cricket Club. Chance discoveries of the sort made by Joan are the lifeblood of creating a picture of the past.

Joan has a strong association with the Cowbridge Cricket Club. It was her father, Bruce who played with his brother Ralph and the Dunns amongst others before the First World War.

Having survived Gallipoli he returned to help revive the club post war. Bruce was always regarded by the late president Colin Adams as the finest wicket keeper Cowbridge ever had but off the field and he was equally effective off the field running a highly successful prize draw for the purchase of sightscreens to enable county cricket to be played at Cowbridge in 1931.

Joan's career took her to Morocco on behalf of the Save the Children fund and for that she was awarded an OBE for her work. On returning to this country Joan spent many years as headteacher of Pembroke Primary School.

If anyone would like to have a look at the cricket club's small but very interesting collection of memorabilia contact Jeffrey Bird on 07976793629.

JB

Llantwit Major RFC face Wolves test

WITH no rugby last weekend due to the second round of the Six Nations competition, Llantwit Major RFC look forward this week to the return of the league on Saturday - and the challenge doesn't come any better than welcoming the runaway league leaders, Cefn Coed Wolves, to the Recreation Ground.

Cefn Coed have had a monumental season so far, winning 13 out of 13 in the league, and hold a nine point lead over second placed Llantwit despite playing two games less than them.

A tough task awaits the Llantonians as they will face a real uphill battle if they want to take the Wolves' unbeaten run from them.

Llantwit, however, will be quick to remind people that they came mighty close to beating Cefn Coed in the reverse fixture in Merthyr back in October in a 20-17 loss, where afterwards supporters of both teams agreed that the home team had probably had the rub of the green in some of the refereeing decisions that day.

Llantwit will no doubt feel they have a point to prove, not just in relation to this fixture but also in the sense that, by their own admission, they have underperformed at crucial times this season.

No better time then to put this to bed than against the top team in the league - kick off is at 2.30pm.

AH

LLANTWIT MAJOR & DISTRICT DARTS LEAGUE UPDATE

THE Llantwit Major and District Darts League season entered its 19th week with the highlights being:

Simon Reader 180, Paul Butcher 180 and 113 out, Sonia Waterhouse 171 (19's), Caroline Adamson and Simon Reader 15 dart leg, Kyle Garrison and Bronwen Baelz 18 dart leg, Alun Hutchinson 18 dart leg, Adam Rourke 21 dart leg, Luke Richards 21 dart leg.

Monday Night 'C' League table: Lamb and Flag 'C1' 145, Shoes St Athan 121, Boverton Castle 120, Lamb and Flag 'C2' 120, Wenvoe Arms 118, Rugby Club 116, Kings Head 'C2' 104, Tudor Tavern 'C2' 84, Kings Head 'C1' 59, Tudor Tavern 'C1' 47.

Tuesday Night 'A' League table: Kings Head 'A1' 175, Wenvoe Arms 154, Fox and Hounds 126, Rugby Club 'A2' 121, Shoes St Athan 115, Golden Cups 111, Shoes Peterston 106, Four Bells 96, Lamb and Flag 90, Rugby Club 'A1' 88, Tudor Tavern 78, Blacksmith Arms 76, Kings Head 'A2' 68, Rugby Club 'A3' 59.

DMC

SIX NATIONS RUGBY

WALES 16 ENGLAND 21

WELSH HOPES SUNK AT THE DEATH AS 'LAST 10 MINUTES JINX' STRIKES YET AGAIN

BACK PAGE COMMENT

by **Don John**

Pictures by the Huw Evans Agency

AS the sounds of an epic, but ultimately frustrating, battle faded on the night air and the army of disappointed Welsh fans streamed away from Cardiff's Principality Stadium on Saturday, caretaker head coach Robert Howley summed up the feelings of the camp after the 16-21 defeat to England: "We've been criticised for winning ugly in the autumn; we didn't get over the line today, but it was a fantastic performance - apart from the last 6-7 minutes."

And, of course, few would argue with that statement, for the Welsh players to a man, had put on a hugely committed, at times heroic display, fronting up manfully to the RBS Six Nations title favourites with passion and defiance, laced with skill and real intent, that almost to the end of this titanic struggle between two evenly-matched teams looked set to reap their rightful reward.

Therein though lies the tale, for as Wales clung to a narrow 16-14 lead, with just three minutes remaining and a famous victory tantalisingly in sight, not for the first time it was snatched away, as an old problem again reared its head - Wales' continuing inability to close out tight-fought games when put under pressure as the stadium clock winds down.

In this case, it was the confident men in white who showed the way by taking clinical advantage of a poor clearance by centre Jonathan Davies that unfortunately failed to reach the safety of touch and quickly ran it back - which saw wing Elliot Daly racing around his opposite number, Alex Cuthbert (a late replacement for the injured George North) for a converted try that sent a much relieved English chariot rumbling on towards back-to-back Grand Slams.

"I think everyone could tell in those last 10 minutes that there were opportunities for England," said Howley "They probably believed they were going to win, and that feeling is pretty precious... We defended really well, but unfortunately, those moments where we needed to execute under pressure, we didn't, and as a result, they scored with three minutes to go. That's what happens in Test football. We'll just have to make sure we're better next time when we get into that position."

The scene had been set for this monumental 130th clash between arch rivals, stretching back to 1881 (England now have 61 wins under their belt compared to Wales' 57, with 12 matches drawn), by RFU chairman Bill Beaumont - "The rivalry will never be dampened… It is one of the great sporting occasions… That has been the same for 130 years and it will continue to be a great rivalry for the next century," said the old England warrior.

Wales had made only two changes - props Rob Evans and Tomas Francis - who were rewarded for their efforts off the replacement bench in the win against Italy six days before, and the band and choirs had barely left the field when England were penalised and Wales claimed first blood through the boot of Leigh Halfpenny.

Centre Owen Farrell replied moments later with an equalising penalty and English power and accuracy began to dominate a first quarter that saw scrum half Ben Youngs squeeze over for an 8-3 lead as the pressure told.

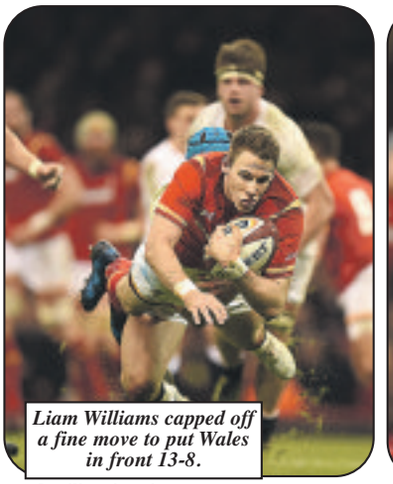
To their credit, the home team, urged on by their '16th man' - a capacity Welsh crowd in full voice - applied intense pressure of their own and forced a penalty, which Halfpenny lofted over.

Then the crowd erupted once more as outside half Dan Biggar made a stunning break that took everyone by surprise, but with no-one in close support, he was forced to kick ahead - and the ball was hacked into touch.

Full-blooded exchanges were fast and furious, outstanding action man Ross Moriarty scattering all before him (inexplicably, he was to be substituted later) as Wales, to their immense credit, shook off memories of lacklustre starts and met the fierce challenge head-on, putting in over 61 tackles to England's 38 and laying siege to their line in a pulsating, seesaw first half that saw livewire scrum half Rhys Webb held up just finger tips short of a try, which culminated in Liam Williams completing a training ground move with a fine touchdown at the posts, the simple conversion giving Wales a deserved 13-8 lead at the interval.

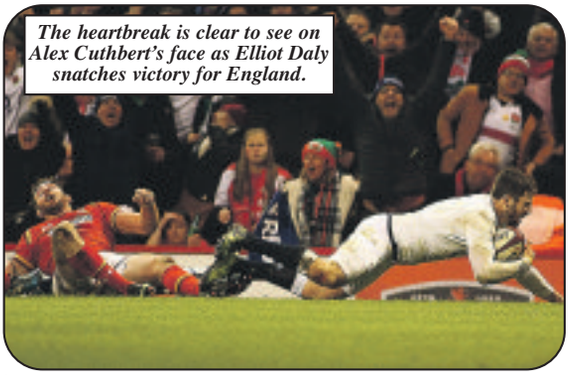
The breathless intensity showed no sign of abating after the change-over, although controversial substitutions seemed to disrupt Welsh momentum and those English players, in particular, who had been on the receiving end of rampaging Moriarty's uncompromising presence were no doubt delighted to see the back of him!

When the ice-cool Farrell struck again with a penalty to cut the deficit to just two points, home fans feared the balance of power was ominously shifting, with Wales clinging to a fragile 16-11 lead following another Halfpenny penalty, and facing an all too familiar situation with 10 nail-biting minutes to go and victory agonisingly within reach.



Liam Williams capped off a fine move to put Wales in front 13-8.

Ross Moriarty came of age with a barnstorming performance



The heartbreak is clear to see on Alex Cuthbert's face as Elliot Daly snatches victory for England.

Incredibly, they appeared to have weathered a final all-out English onslaught on their line and the ball went out to the Scarlets' centre - the crowd willing him to hoof it into touch… Alas, it was not to be, and England capitalised to break Welsh hearts yet again at the death.

"We just couldn't get a foothold in the last 10 minutes and when we did, we didn't execute as effectively as we would want to," Howley admitted.

"Ultimately, test matches are decided in the last 10 minutes, in terms of composure and discipline, and executing those decisions under pressure. I think England did that a little better than us and as such deserved to win. We'll try to learn from those last 10 minutes where we went wrong."

The problem for Howley and his fellow coaches is that fans may well ask why it is taking so long to find a solution to a 10-minute 'mystery' that prevents this immensely talented squad from finally realising their full potential.

Meanwhile, Murrayfield awaits a week Saturday, and the improving Scots are already sharpening their dirks in anticipation of a second big RBS Six Nations scalp.

Skipper Alun Wyn-Jones led by example as always.

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